

Oneida Daily Dispatch  
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Sen. Dave Valesky made poor decision for Adirondack Park Agency

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To The Editor:

What is state Sen. David Valesky thinking? At the request of a minority-party senator who doesn't even live in the Adirondack Park, he is opposing the governor's latest nominee to the Adirondack Park Agency. Sen. Betty Little, R-Queensbury, is now boasting of her victory in halting the appointment of Peter Hornbeck, of Minerva, Essex County. She doesn't like Hornbeck because he is an environmentalist. She prefers the resort-owner, whom Hornbeck would replace on the land-use agency's board of commissioners.

Hornbeck deserves better. For nearly four decades, Hornbeck's boat-building operation has provided meaningful, full-time employment to Adirondack craftsmen. His boat-works produces some of the finest canoes and kayaks in the world — at affordable prices.

It is a source of considerable pride to many Adirondackers. He is Minerva's largest private employer.

Hornbeck has local government experience, land-use planning experience, and the respect of his fellow townspeople. These qualities would seem to make him an ideal candidate for the Park Agency. He understands the unique economic problems as well as the great opportunities that the Adirondack Park offers.

Sen. Valesky is ignoring the advice of Minerva's town supervisor, who sent a letter of support for Hornbeck to the Senate. The letter announced that the town board had passed a resolution on Feb. 18 endorsing Hornbeck's nomination to the Park Agency: "The Peter Hornbeck we all know is an intelligent and thoughtful man. He is someone who works hard to balance the needs of the environment, the needs of the business community and the needs of his neighbors... We believe he will represent the needs of Adirondack communities and businesses well. We urge you to confirm Peter Hornbeck to the Adirondack Park Agency."

Hornbeck has the support of environmental organizations, local businesses, the governor and his own hometown officials. His nomination was passed by the Environmental Conservation Committee. But it has stalled in the Finance Committee, on which Sen. Valesky sits. His refusal to support Hornbeck is the reason the nomination has stalled.

The Adirondack Park belongs to everyone in New York, not just the senator who lives closest to it. Sen. Valesky should support Peter Hornbeck for the APA.