



**ADIRONDACK COUNCIL PRAISES NYS ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR DEFENDING
STATE'S PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS PROGRAM**

*As the Nation's Only Environmental Group to Purchase and Hold
Thousands of Carbon Allowances
Council has Big Financial Stake in Success of America's First
Mandatory Carbon-Trading Program*

Released, Wednesday, June 13, 2012

For more information:

John F. Sheehan

518-432-1770 (ofc)

518-441-1340 (cell)

ALBANY, N.Y. – The Adirondack Council today congratulated Attorney General Eric Schneiderman for his defense of New York State's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) – the nation's first government-mandated carbon emissions reduction program.

"We congratulate Attorney General Schneiderman on his success in persuading the court to dismiss this lawsuit," said Brian L. Houseal, Executive Director of the Adirondack Council. "The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is an outstanding program. Its survival and eventual expansion are our best hope for curbing the emissions that cause catastrophic climate change."

"RGGI is a model for the rest of the nation and the world," Houseal explained. "We are grateful to the attorney general for preventing New York's withdrawal from the program. If the plaintiffs appeal this decision, we stand ready to assist the Attorney General in a further defense of the program."

Last September, the Adirondack Council filed an affidavit in support of Attorney General Schneiderman's motion to dismiss the lawsuit brought by a group that is trying to force New York to withdraw from the RGGI. The lawsuit was brought in NYS Supreme Court in Albany by several New Yorkers at the urging of Americans for Prosperity, an ultra-conservative, Midwest-based organization opposed to mandatory carbon reductions from power plants.

The Adirondack Council is the only environmental organization in America that has competed head-to-head with power plant owners for the right to buy carbon allowances on the RGGI market. The Council bids at the auctions and buys allowances – not with the intent to use them, but to retire them so they are never used.

However, if the RGGI program is struck down by the courts, carbon allowances purchased to date could become worthless.

"We said back September 2011 that we were so confident in Attorney General Schneiderman's success in this case we would immediately place a bid on 1,000 additional allowances at that Wednesday's auction. We bought them and intend to retire them. But we

couldn't hope to do this if New York had to drop out. Now, our efforts to retire pollution can continue.

“We are proud that New York has been a leader in reducing the carbon emissions that lead to catastrophic climate change,” Houseal said. “We would like to see this become a national program, and then an international model for reducing greenhouse gas emissions quickly and inexpensively.

The Adirondack Council has been a participant in the RGGI's quarterly carbon allowance auctions since the auctions began in September 2008. To date, the organization has purchased 14,000 tons worth with money donated by its supporters. Rather than resell the allowances to polluters, the organization retires them from the program by withholding them permanently from the market.

A national leader on acid rain and climate change, the Adirondack Council is a privately funded, not-for-profit organization founded in 1975 and dedicated to ensuring the ecological integrity and wild character of New York's 9,300-square-mile Adirondack Park. The Council carries out its mission through research, education, advocacy and legal action. Adirondack Council members live in all 50 United States.

-end-