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## "Dead Wood" Bill Might Open up Forest

Keene, New York - Some New York State politicians say they've found a plentiful source for firewood to heat people's homes but opponents say there are better options than opening the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

For years some politicians have wanted to pass a bill to allow people to carry out dead wood from the Preserve. Now reports are there might be more support for the plan.

But that doesn't solve the major issue of opening the forest.

Take a look around the Adirondack Forest Preserve in Upstate New York and you might see dead wood. State Senator Betty Little sees fuel to heat homes.

"You have people that are struggling in the Adirondacks who use wood as their major heat source and could use the wood," says Little.

Right now no one is allowed to pickup and carry out dead wood from the forest. Senator Little and others want to open up limited areas near roads.

"I think that is makes sense and it's reasonable," says Little.

Adirondack Council executive director Brian Houseal says dead wood helps keep the forest alive. He says even taking a portion of the dead wood will have an impact from scenic to the environment.

"When trees die there is calcium that is put back in the soil from the growing tree that is now rotting. It's an important buffer against acid rain," says Houseal.

The bill still needs to go through both sides of the legislature. There is still some debate about whether opening the forest would need a constitutional amendment.