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Adirondack groups back federal bill aimed at protecting family farms

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. — A coalition of Adirondack Park groups is urging passage of the Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act that's part of the 2012 Farm Bill.

Adirondack Council Director Brian Houseal says the 200 farms in the Champlain and St. Lawrence valleys protect 52,000 acres of open space and wildlife habitat while providing local food to the region.

Rep. Bill Owens, a Plattsburgh Democrat, is a co-sponsor of the bill aimed at protecting family farms like those in the Adirondacks. At his request, the House Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing on the Farm Bill Friday morning at North Country Community College in Saranac Lake.

The Adirondack Council, Adirondack Harvest, Adirondack North Country Association, Open Space Institute and other organizations joined forces in support of the bill.

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