



July 20, 2020

Terry Martino, Executive Director  
Adirondack Park Agency  
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For Staff and Board:

*Home of:*

North Country  
Small Business  
Council

Adirondack Coast  
Visitors Bureau

North Country  
Industrial Council

Québec-New York  
Corridor Coalition

S.C.O.R.E.

North American  
Center of Excellence  
for Transportation  
Equipment

Plattsburgh-  
North Country  
Service Corp.

*Serving:*

Clinton  
Essex  
Franklin  
Warren  
Hamilton  
Akwesasne  
Southern Québec

The North Country Chamber of Commerce is the largest business and economic development organization in northern New York, linking more than 4,200 employers across Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton and northern Warren Counties and Akwesasne, the majority being small businesses within the Adirondack Park.

We have long been joined with other partners in advocacy on behalf of the Adirondack economy and the sustainability of the region's communities. Among various policy and project objectives, we see the continued extensive gaps across the Adirondacks in cellular phone service as especially pernicious, along with the need to finally close the significant remaining gaps in broadband.

Once thought of as a matter of convenience, 21st century communications such as cell service have now been proven to be essential to daily life, from access to health care and education to crucial access to employment via distance and to timely information. Add the huge challenges ahead in rebuilding the region's tourism economy -- which will continue to be more and more dependent on such communications access -- and then the consensus that community sustainability is dependent on attracting younger residents who in turn are dependent on basic daily services such as cell phones and we are at an historic crossroads calling out for reassessment and updating of APA policies.

We therefore join with others in reiterating our support for comprehensive new policies which will facilitate and allow substantial advances in cellular phone service within the Adirondack Park including allowance of higher towers.

The need for such action is certainly one of the clearest early lessons of this continuing pandemic. The North Country Chamber is prepared to collaborate with its partners and the APA toward turning this lesson into the earliest possible progress.

Sincerely,

Garry Douglas  
President and CEO

cc: Various officials and partners



***A Strong Partner for Strong Business in the North Country***

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