

1 **2025 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Agriculture, Economic Development & Rural**  
3 **Affairs**  
4 **Resolution #1**

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6 **Resolution Urging the New York State Department of Environmental**  
7 **Conservation to Pause Implementation and Reverse the Freshwater**  
8 **Wetlands Regulations**  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)  
11 has adopted significant amendments to the Freshwater Wetlands Regulations under 6  
12 NYCRR Part 664, which expands state jurisdiction over wetlands, reduces the acreage  
13 threshold for regulation, and creates new classifications such as “Wetlands of Unusual  
14 Importance;” and

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16 **WHEREAS**, these regulations were developed without a thorough analysis of their  
17 economic and operational impacts on counties, rural communities, and local  
18 governments, including their potential to delay or prevent essential public works  
19 projects, housing development, agricultural best-management practices, and other  
20 infrastructure improvements; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) submitted a letter to  
23 the DEC highlighting objections to the proposed regulations, including concerns over  
24 increased permitting delays, additional financial burdens on homeowners and  
25 municipalities, and the undermining of recent state investments in economic  
26 development, such as the \$500 million allocated for shovel-ready sites through FAST  
27 NY and Restore New York; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, NYSAC further recommended pausing the implementation of these  
30 regulations for 12 months to allow for comprehensive analysis of their impacts and the  
31 formation of a working group with representatives from local governments to develop  
32 balanced and practical solutions; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, other stakeholders, including the New York State Economic Development  
35 Council and The Business Council of New York State raised similar concerns,  
36 emphasizing the adverse effects of these regulations on economic development, rural  
37 property values, and the timely completion of affordable housing and renewable energy  
38 projects; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, these changes could impose significant permitting challenges for  
41 municipalities managing critical infrastructure projects, such as water and sewer  
42 systems, and exacerbate already strained municipal budgets due to increased  
43 compliance costs and project delays; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, while the protection of New York’s freshwater wetlands is an essential  
46 goal, it must be balanced with the need to support local governments, economic

1 development, and affordable housing in a manner that does not disproportionately  
2 burden communities and taxpayers.

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4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the DEC to immediately  
5 reverse the proposed regulations under 6 NYCRR Part 664 and allow for a more  
6 thorough and thoughtful analysis of their potential impacts on counties, that does not  
7 usurp local land control or home rule, local governments, and economic development;  
8 and

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10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the DEC to establish a  
11 collaborative working group with representatives from counties, local governments, and  
12 other key stakeholders to address concerns and identify practical solutions that protect  
13 wetlands without imposing undue burdens on communities; and

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15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
16 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

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18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of  
19 the State of New York, the Commissioner of the New York State Department of  
20 Environmental Conservation, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed  
21 necessary and proper.