

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 21

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman WEINBERG

1 **ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** memorializing Congress to provide funding
2 to acquire Sterling Forest in southern New York for preservation and
3 management as a park by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.
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5 **WHEREAS**, Sterling Forest, a mostly privately owned tract of open space
6 approximately 20,000 acres in size located in southern New York and
7 northern New Jersey, is one of the last major undeveloped areas in the
8 New York City metropolitan area; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Two important northern New Jersey drinking water sources, the
10 Monksville Reservoir and the Wanaque Reservoir, are fed by streams with
11 headwaters in Sterling Forest, and these reservoirs supply drinking water
12 to almost two million people; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Sterling Forest is imminently threatened with large-scale
14 development that is likely to have severe environmental consequences and
15 threaten water supplies such as the Monksville and Wanaque reservoirs;
16 and
17 **WHEREAS**, Open space in the New York City metropolitan area, including
18 southern New York and northern New Jersey, is rapidly diminishing due
19 to the pressures of urban sprawl and development; and
20 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey has already taken action to acquire the
21 approximately 2,000 acres of Sterling Forest lying within New Jersey, but
22 the major portion of the forest, consisting of about 17,500 acres, lies within
23 New York; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Recent studies conducted by the States of New Jersey and New
25 York and by the United States Forest Service all recognize the importance
26 of protecting Sterling Forest; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Legislation has been introduced in Congress by members of the
28 New Jersey and New York congressional delegations that would authorize
29 up to \$35 million to be used to commence the process of acquiring Sterling
30 Forest for preservation and management as a park by the Palisades
31 Interstate Park Commission; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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3 1. The Congress of the United States is memorialized to provide funding
4 to acquire Sterling Forest in southern New York for preservation and
5 management as a park by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

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7 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of
8 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted
9 to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
10 House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the United
11 States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, every member
12 of Congress elected from this State and from the State of New York, the
13 Governor of this State and the Governor of the State of New York, the
14 Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Citizens Advisory Council on the
15 Palisades Interstate Park, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department
16 of Environmental Protection and Energy, the Commissioner of the New York
17 Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the Commissioner
18 of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

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STATEMENT

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23 This resolution would memorialize the Congress of the United States to
24 provide funding to acquire Sterling Forest in southern New York for
25 preservation and management as a park by the Palisades Interstate Park
26 Commission.

27 Sterling Forest, a mostly privately owned tract of open space
28 approximately 20,000 acres in size located in southern New York and
29 northern New Jersey, is one of the last major undeveloped areas in the New
30 York City metropolitan area. Two important northern New Jersey drinking
31 water sources, the Monksville Reservoir and the Wanaque Reservoir, are fed
32 by streams with headwaters in Sterling Forest, and these reservoirs supply
33 drinking water to almost two million people. Sterling Forest is imminently
34 threatened with large-scale development that is likely to have severe
35 environmental consequences and threaten water supplies such as the
36 Monksville and Wanaque reservoirs.

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38 approximately 2,000 acres of Sterling Forest lying within New Jersey, but the
39 major portion of the forest, consisting of about 17,500 acres, lies within New
40 York. Recent studies conducted by the States of New Jersey and New York
41 and by the United States Forest Service all recognize the importance of
42 protecting Sterling Forest. Legislation has been introduced in Congress by
43 members of the New Jersey and New York congressional delegations that

1 would authorize up to \$35 million to be used to commence the process of
2 acquiring Sterling Forest for preservation and management as a park by the
3 Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

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8 Memorializes Congress to fund acquisition of Sterling Forest in southern NY
9 for preservation and management as a park by the Palisades Interstate Park
10 Commission.