

Resolution 2023 – Proposed Changes to NY State Soil and Water Conservation District Law

Whereas, the Schuylar County Soil and Water Conservation District has been serving our region for more than 80 years and,

Whereas, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are set up in a manner to best meet the dynamic needs of their individual region and to have their board of directors representative of those dynamics and,

Whereas, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are leaders of climate resiliency, soil health, nutrient, sediment, and pathogen reduction to help protect preserve and enhance our pristine water quality and,

Whereas, Soil and Water Conservation Districts work on a watershed basis with all of their programs, and projects to address issues across municipal boundaries focusing on the watershed needs and goals and,

Whereas, Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been the backbone of flood resiliency and flood attenuation and,

Whereas, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are the proven capable group to implement the multi-barrier approach needed to on the ground cost effective conservation to combat climate resiliency, and improve soil health by bringing together municipalities, private businesses, private landowners, private homeowners, and the agricultural community and,

Whereas, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are non-regulatory, non-discriminatory and reach all constituents represented in a geographic area because of their makeup and,

Whereas, the proposed changes to New York State Soil and Water Conservation District law will effect funding,, functionality and effectiveness of Soil and Water Conservation District leading to less necessary on the ground cost effective conservation risking water quality, habitat, wildlife, and billions of dollars of private and public infrastructure and,

Whereas, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are seen as one of the most efficient effective public agencies state wide and across party lines due to the unique manner in which they were set up and should be a model for all public agencies, now

Therefore Be It Resolved, the Town of Orange opposes the proposed changes to New York State Soil and Water Conservation District Law, and urges the Governor and NYS Legislature to do the same.

Teresa A. Beards 2/4/2023