

# Cuomo bows to developers on APA appointment

To his credit, Gov. Mario Cuomo has been a consistent defender and champion of public values. To his discredit, the governor has lapsed in his treatment of the Adirondack Park, one of the greatest natural resources in the United States.

The state's Adirondack Park Agency has been given the task of controlling potentially damaging development on the millions of acres of private land in the Adirondacks. Perhaps inevitably, there has been opposition to the APA's restrictions from well-organized real estate interests. In the name of "balance" and "moderation," they have pressured the governor to change the makeup of the APA's board of commissioners to better reflect the interests of developers and their local government allies.

Cuomo appears to be succumbing.

For example, one of his latest appointments to the APA board is a Fulton County resident who belongs to an anti-environmental organization dedicated to abolishing planning and zoning controls at the regional level. Such appointments work against the interests of those who wish to preserve the health, ecology and natural beauty of this unique region.

Gov. Cuomo should read the report of Gov. Nelson Rockefeller's Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks. In 1970, this commission called for creation of a park agency to protect the Adirondacks from careless development. This is what the commission told us then: "Without adequate planning and land use controls, subdividing will destroy the park."

Anyone Mr. Cuomo appoints to the

APA should give priority to preserving the park's natural integrity, which also provides the basis for its economy. Development controls in the Adirondacks should not be weakened by giving in to the "home rule" demands of a burgeoning real estate industry — not if the park is to survive the destructive development trends identified a generation ago.

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