



New York State Conservation Council Inc.
8 East Main Street, Ilion, New York 13357-1899

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Bill # **A 4018** Barclay Same as **S 1065** Bonacic

Title: **An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to hunting, fishing and outdoor education in high school physical education courses.**

The purpose of this legislation is to develop a secondary school educational program that local school districts could choose to utilize, relating to hunting, fishing and outdoor education.

Justification:

Hunting, fishing and related outdoor activities have a proud history and tradition in New York State. They have long been recognized as sound conservation and natural resource management practices for the protection of our forest and wildlife resources. Since the late 1800's, New York State has been a national leader in sound conservation practices. New York State was one of the first states to establish hunting, fishing, and trapping seasons.

This legislation would place this proud history in the classroom, stimulating awareness of the outdoors, the resources we have and the need to protect them. It would foster the ability to enjoy and become involved with hunting, fishing, trapping, and other outdoor activities in the future. Providing this educational experience will teach students about these links to our history.

Forests cover 18.9 million acres, or 63 percent of New York State's 30 million total acres. Through increased awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities, more students will be better equipped to enjoy and protect them. This will not only encourage them to lead a more active, healthy lifestyle but will better educate them to support the formulation and establishment of the policies and practices needed to conserve, protect and manage our forests, wildlife and recreational areas for present and succeeding generations.

Contact:

A. Charles Parker, President
NYS Conservation Council, Inc.
Phone: 315/963-8413
Email: nyscc@nyscc.com