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

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Bill # **A 418** Gunther Same as **S 2537** Griffo

Title: Permits the designation by town boards of low volume and minimum maintenance roads.

This legislation would permit town boards to enact provisions relating to the open dates, maintenance, improvement and repair of town roads that reflect their actual usage.

Justification:

The NYSCC supports this legislation. Road management issues are normally outside the purview of the Council but this legislation is the exception. The availability and the cost of providing access to forest lands, wildlife management areas and recreational land is of utmost concern to all those participating in outdoor recreational activities. Such legislation would insure that this can be done with minimal environmental impact.

This legislation would give the authority of law to standards developed by the NYS Local Roads Research and Coordination Council in 1992 for low-volume road classification in order to mitigate the costs that would be incurred in bringing such roads up to current design standards.

These activities are often centered in the state's less densely populated areas where local governments have a considerable number of low-volume roads and limited fiscal resources with which to maintain them. It is not realistic for many towns to upgrade these older roads to a "one size fits all" modern engineering standard.

The key determinant should be what is required to provide access for a specific purpose. It is much more pragmatic to allow towns to maintain roads based on their actual utilization in terms of time and duration of use, vehicle types and actual traffic counts. This would allow towns to more fully meet the needs of their constituencies with the resources available to them.

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