



STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**DAVID A. PATERSON**  
GOVERNOR

June 8, 2009

Dear Fellow New Yorker:

I am very pleased to approve the 2009 Final New York State Open Space Conservation Plan, which serves as the blueprint for continuing the State of New York's great open space conservation legacy. This Plan maintains New York's longstanding tradition of open space conservation that makes our State a wonderful place to live and attractive to businesses, and it is one of the key elements of our economic competitiveness. The Plan has been developed, pursuant to 1990 legislation, through a grassroots process involving local government officials and citizens as members of Regional Advisory Committees, and an extensive public comment process.

I would like to thank the members of the Regional Advisory Committees; this Plan would not be possible if not for their volunteered time and efforts. I would also like to thank the Commissioners and staff from the Department of Environmental Conservation and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – in partnership with the Department of State and Department of Agriculture and Markets – for their work to incorporate the input of the Regional Advisory Committees and public comments into the revised Plan.

Extensive public comments on the draft Plan demonstrated broad support for the State's Open Space Conservation Plan and Program. For well over a century, New York State has led the nation in open space conservation policy, and the final 2009 Plan carries on that legacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Paterson".

David A. Paterson