Testimony of Nick D. Yanick of The Preston Mountain Club before the Environment Committee in support of H.B. 6263

I have been involved in the hunting industry for the past 10 years. Creating habitat for animals and all wildlife has been a passion of mine since the early 1990's. I have been a member of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) since 1998, and have helped numerous landowners in New York, Connecticut & Michigan create habitats along with customized food plots for feeding and providing cover for all types of wildlife.

I also managed a large, private deer hunting ranch in Lagrangeville, NY for 5 years, managing over 1000 acres, turning it into a piece of property that sustains over 400 deer, plus turkey, bears and other wildlife.

I was hired by Preston Mountain Club to not only help turn their property into a hunting and fishing paradise for the members, but also one that sustains the diverse amount of different wildlife as well. We have spent a substantial amount of money in our habitat & forestry, working closely with a certified forester in order to protect that wildlife, creating clear-cuts for food plots which also serves as cover for animals during the winter months. Our commitment has finally started to pay off as this past year was a very successful one for both hunting & fishing.

We have a very intense logging program that will take the next 4 years to complete, hoping to have at least 100 acres of separate fields in full operation by 2013. The 10 Mill program, though it made sense at the time, does not make sense now and the proposed tax increase will devastate this small club and completely run all the progress that has been made. This mountain is a very special place, I have seen many ranches, and have worked at some nice places, but this club is a very unique one in that all the club members first dedication is to the wildlife that makes this club what it is. This is also the very reason why I chose to work here as well as live here.

Sincerely,
Nick D. Yanick
Manager
Preston Mountain Club