



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

AMANDA LEFTON
Commissioner

December 1, 2025
(Via Email Only)

Barbara Rice
Executive Director
Adirondack Park Agency
1133 State Route 86
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Re: APA Project 2021-0276
Sponsor/Applicant: Michael Hopmeier/Unconventional Concepts, Inc.

Dear Executive Director Rice,

By letter dated November 20, 2025, I was appointed to serve as hearing officer for the Agency's hearing on the above referenced project application pursuant to section 580.8(a) of the Agency's regulations. By this letter I make full disclosure, as part of the record, of all information relevant to the issue of bias or disqualification. Prior to accepting the appointment as hearing officer in this matter I ensured that I had no professional or financial connection with Michael Hopmeier, Unconventional Concepts, Inc., Diversified Upstate Enterprises, LLC, Pulsifer Logging, LLC and James Pulsifer and determined that there was no issue of bias or other disqualification pursuant to 9 NYCRR 580.8 of the Agency Regulations. Additionally, I considered potential parties or intervenors to the Agency's hearing on the project application and ensured that I have no current or recent professional or financial connections that might raise an issue of bias or other disqualification.

The role of hearing officer in this matter, as set forth in APA Project Order 2021-0276 issued November 14, 2025, is to develop an evidentiary hearing record on the three issues identified in the Order. The Agency is not requesting that the hearing officer make findings of fact or conclusions of law and reserves to itself the exclusive right to make its own findings of fact and conclusions of law as part of its final Agency determination and order pursuant to 9 NYCRR 580.18. I am confident that I can fulfil the duties of hearing officer in this matter impartially and without any bias to any current or future party with respect to any determination I may make during the hearing.

Sincerely,

Hon. David Greenwood
Administrative Law Judge

cc: Matthew D. Norfolk, Attorney for the applicant
Michele M. Stefanucci, Chief Administrative Law Judge
Damion K. L. Stodola, APA Counsel
Shane Kelly, Norfolk Beier PLLC
Angela Bates, APA