

April 2023

Dear RPA member:

I want to personally let you know how excited I am about this merger and all that lies ahead. I also want to assure you of the following:

- All of RPA's community forests and other conserved lands will remain protected. The volunteer committees that help manage these lands will stay active. Likewise, the wonderful programs and projects of both organizations will continue.
- The merged organization will retain all of RPA's staff and board members and our offices at Sky High Community Center in Averill Park.
- The awesome momentum built over the past few years at RPA—including Forests Forever Campaign conservation projects, youth programs, trails, and community forests—will continue to thrive.

We've created a transition team made up of board and staff members of both organizations. The team has been working together for several months now. I am so impressed by the work of this team and am confident with the direction we are heading.

As with all of RPA's work, your care and involvement will make this endeavor a success. With you, the merged organization will be able to do more and go farther for conservation in Rensselaer County. The merger will strengthen our efforts toward a climate-resilient region, an engaged community, and all else that comes our way.

If you have any questions or would like to talk at any point in this adventure, please just give me a call at 518-712-9211 or send me an e-mail at [jim@rensselaerplateau.org](mailto:jim@rensselaerplateau.org).

Yours in conservation,



Jim Bonesteel  
Executive Director, RPA