

Mr. Ernst: Conservation and Preservation
October 1, 2002

Dear Stan Ernst, Jr.:

Thanks for making my day. I thoroughly enjoyed your letter to the editor in last week's *Express* (9/24/02, page 4)

You pose some interesting questions, a trait endemic to those of the liberal persuasion. They are much better at asking hard questions than they are at answering them. When was the last time you ever heard a liberal answer one other than with another question?

We shall see if you are the exception to the rule.

Let's start with you explaining to "fellow Adirondackers" your reasons for labeling them polluters. I wouldn't slam the backhouse door that hard.

If you can manage that, let's cut right to the chase and the real reason for your not-so-subtle but hilarious letter. I refer, of course, to your question as to why a fellow "Adirondacker" refers to people who think it's important to conserve the natural resources of the Adirondacks as "tree huggers and environmentalists" ("Must be a local, antagonistic journalist who just might have an ulterior motive for bombastic proclamations?")

I admit to being the person you refer to in your last paragraph. I will answer your question as follows.

I do not feel that conserving the natural resources of the Adirondacks is a noble cause. It is shortsighted and detrimental to both the environment and the local economy and borders on complete stupidity. When I use the word stupidity I use it in the context as put forth by my long departed and beloved father-in-law: "Ignorance can be overcome, but stupidity is forever."

I will begin with the word conserve. Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines its meaning, among others, as "to avoid wasteful or destructive use of natural resources." Perhaps you will be so good as to explain why utilizing natural and renewable resources is in any way wasteful or destructive?

In what way is allowing our forests to over mature, rot, promote insect infestations, disease and increase fire danger conserving our natural resources? In what way is all that good for the environment? What's wrong with providing employment and wise use (conservation) of a renewable resource as an alternative to rot and waste?

You may be confusing conserve and preserve. The same word source mentioned above defines "preserve" among others, as "to keep alive, intact or free from decay" to keep or save from decomposition." Is not everything within the Blue Line a Preserve?

Why should one be considered antagonistic for pointing out flaws in blind left wing ideology that threatens our freedoms, security and institutions which millions of Americans have died to preserve?

I have just given you my "ulterior motive" for expressing myself as I do and I submit my eight grandchildren of further proof of my sincerity. If that appears to you to be bombastic in my proclamations, so be it. What's your excuse?

Thanks again for your letter and assuring me once again that the truth hurts. Thanks also for including me, with only 44 year's tenure, as an Adirondacker, I would be proud if I could say it was true. You are just as wrong in that assumption as you are in accusing Adirondackers of irresponsible behavior and being polluters.

Although you evidently would be much happier and more secure in your beliefs if my First Amendment rights could be curtailed, I in turn applaud yours. Believe me, the expression of yours hurt you much more than I ever could.