

1 **2020 Fall Seminar**  
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**  
3 **Resolution #3**

4 **Resolution Urging State Action on a Chapter Amendment to Assure**  
5 **Effective Control of Wildlife Populations at Airports**

6 **WHEREAS**, wildlife populations can pose a threat to aviation operations in and  
7 around airports and cause significant damage to aircraft, lengthy flight delays and  
8 threats to the safety of passengers and residents of surrounding communities; and

9 **WHEREAS**, airports employ best humane practices to keep wildlife populations at bay  
10 by erecting fences, building walls, constructing stormwater ponds, using pulsating lights  
11 and other mechanisms; and

12 **WHEREAS**, despite these efforts, deer, birds, coyote and other wildlife still make their  
13 way onto runways, tarmacs and into flight paths; and

14 **WHEREAS**, according to FAA data, about 90% of bird strikes take place at or near  
15 airports, usually while taking off or landing, and there were 898 collisions between  
16 aircraft and white-tailed deer in the United States over a 10-year period; and

17 **WHEREAS**, wildlife strikes to U.S. civil aircraft cost about \$718 million in damage to  
18 aircraft and about 567,000 hours of civil aircraft down time annually, and result in  
19 injuries to pilots and passengers; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recognizes  
21 that wildlife population reduction is necessary at airports and other public facilities and  
22 issues permits to authorized persons to use certain firearms and techniques to remove  
23 from these aviation properties deer and other wildlife that pose a threat; and

24 **WHEREAS**, some previously permitted wildlife management methods are now no  
25 longer available with the potential for negative impacts on the safety of airport  
26 operations, making it more difficult for airports to effectively keep the runways and  
27 facilities clear of animal obstructions and interference and safe for aircraft and  
28 passengers and airport communities; and

29 **WHEREAS**, a bill, A.1599 (Hunter)/S.5849 (May), passed both houses of the  
30 legislature intended to partially restore prior practices by DEC of issuing special wildlife  
31 management permits; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Governor Cuomo vetoed this bill in December 2019; and

33 **WHEREAS**, new legislation needs to be reintroduced to include provisions critical to  
34 protecting New York's airports and aviation operations from the threat of wildlife.

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that controlling wildlife populations  
36 around airports is critical to ensuring the safety of travelers, aircraft crews and  
37 surrounding neighborhoods; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of Counties  
2 urges the Governor and Legislature to agree to a bill to fully reinstate the authorization  
3 and use of certain successful wildlife management techniques in a strictly controlled  
4 manner by government employees acting in an official capacity or persons acting  
5 pursuant to a permit to continue to effectively control wildlife populations at airports  
6 and surrounding areas; and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
8 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
10 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York Legislature, the NY Airport Managers  
11 Association, and all others deemed necessary and proper.