

Supporting State Funding For The Implementation Of The Belleayre Mountain Ski Center Unit Management Plan Full Build Out Alternative

Referred to: The Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Maloney and Legislators Berky, Delaune, Lapp, Litts, Maio and Rodriguez)

Chairman of the Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning, and Transit Committee, James F. Maloney, and Legislator Peter M. Loughran offer the following:

WHEREAS, in 1987, the voters of the State of New York approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the expansion of the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Catskill Park State Land Master Plan included the recommendation to modernize and expand the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, stating that, “New efforts to link recreational development on the Forest Preserve with Catskill communities can give substantial support to local economic development”; and

WHEREAS, the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center Unit Management Plan (UMP) was revised for the express purpose of establishing a comprehensive plan to allow the NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority to modernize and expand the entire facility to address future needs, and increase public safety and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the revised UMP for the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center was developed based upon recommendations by ski-industry experts to expand and renovate the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center to ensure its continued viability; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2015, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, issued a Findings Statement for the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center Unit Management Plan and approved the revision to the Unit Management Plan allowing for the development of the “Full Build Out Alternative” for the ski center; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2015, Governor Cuomo announced the final approval for the expansion and modernization of the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, which stated this project is expected to provide a major boom to tourism in the Catskills and the region's economy; and

Resolution No. 49 February 15, 2017

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WHEREAS, the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center is a significant economic driver for the Rt. 28 corridor, drawing ski visitors from throughout the Northeast and creates both full time and part-time employment for nearly 400 Catskill Region residents; and

WHEREAS, visitors to the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center also patronize numerous local businesses in Ulster County and the region, allowing those businesses to prosper, create jobs and raise significant tax revenue for the State of New York and the local communities; and

WHEREAS, the “Full Build Out Alternative” is projected to more than double the number of skier visits to the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, creating 32 new full-time jobs at the Ski Center and inducing over \$32 million of visitor spending at small businesses throughout the region annually; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature requests a meeting among the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, the Chairman of the Legislature’s Standing Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit, representatives from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and representatives of Governor Cuomo’s Office to discuss the Unit Management Plan and current status of the project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby requests that Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature enable the implementation of the multi-year capital improvement plan contained in the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center Unit Management Plan by allocating the requisite funding within the 2017-18 State Budget,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 16 NOES: 3
(Noes: Legislators Greene, R. Parete, and Wawro)
(Absent: Legislators Gerentine, Maio, Roberts and Ronk)

