

**Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into Agreement With The New York State Department Of Agriculture And Markets For The Agricultural And Farmland Protection Implementation Grants For Purchase Of Development Rights And Conservation Easements**

The Economic Development / Education, Tourism and Cultural Affairs Committee (Chairman Harris and Legislators Cummings, Felicello, Roberti, Bartels, Loughran and Zimet) offers the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County has been awarded a grant by New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, in the amount of \$652,745.00 to assist in the farmland preservation efforts with the purchase of development rights or conservation easements on the Paul Farm or in the alternative the Watkins Farm in Ulster County, under the County's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program, and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature has requested authorization to enter into an agreement with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to accept a grant in the amount of \$652,745.00 and supporting documents to meet the required twenty-five percent match including local matching funds and services for conservation easements in the amount of \$217,581.00, for total project cost of \$870,326.00, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has reviewed the environmental assessment form filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and is aware that the Department of Agriculture and Markets has prepared a generic EIS on the program finding no significant impact on the environment.

RESOLVED, in accordance with NYCCR Part 617 (SEQRA) the Legislature finds that the implementation of this project will not have a significant impact on the environment and that a Negative Declaration will be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature be authorized to enter into agreements with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to effectuate the Agriculture Farmland Protection Implementation Grant, for the purchase of developments rights in the amount of \$652,745.00 with approval of the County Attorney, and

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FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chairman of the Legislature is authorized upon approval as to form and content by the County Attorney to enter into agreements, contracts, memoranda of understandings with other appropriate parties to effectuate this program,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 32 NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Hathaway)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$652,745.00 – NYS REVENUE – FISCAL YEARS 2004 THROUGH 2005

\$213,415.00 – LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FROM VARIOUS CONSERVATION AGENCIES

\$ 4,166.00 – COUNTY IN-KIND SERVICES

\$870,326.00 – TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

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