

**Supporting The Town Of Hurley's Application To Create A Lower Esopus Watershed Management Program In Ulster County**

The Environmental Committee (Chairman Shapiro and Legislators Bartels, Distel, R.A. Parete, Rodriguez, Fabiano and McAfee) and Legislators Berardi, Cahill, Kraft and R.S. Parete offer the following:

WHEREAS, in 2005 Ulster County communities along the Lower Esopus Creek experienced two flood events of "75 year" and "50 year" magnitude within a six month period, resulting in substantial property damage, loss of housing and environmental degradation, and

WHEREAS, representatives of communities along the Lower Esopus Creek have sponsored a series of public workshops and forums to discuss the persistence of conditions which lend themselves to devastating flood events, including Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, Ulster County Legislators and associated departments, representatives of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Red Cross and local elected officials and first responders from watershed municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hurley, New York has submitted a Hudson River Estuary Program grant application for the *Lower Esopus Watershed Management and Stewardship Project*, in order to conduct a stream corridor analysis of the Lower Esopus Creek and to complement and build upon prior studies and data collection, and to develop a Preliminary Management Plan that would minimize the catastrophic effects of a high water event on residents and property in the lower Esopus Valley, and

WHEREAS, said plan and analysis would utilize science-based recommendations for addressing causes of flooding and ensure the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders through intermunicipal cooperation, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District, Ulster County Environmental Management Council, the Lower Esopus River Watch, Inc., and United States Army Corps of Engineers have studied, assessed and collected data on the Lower Esopus corridor which will aid this effort, and

WHEREAS, this grant specifically addresses the need to identify diverse stakeholders interested in being stewards for overseeing issues related to the health, stability and vitality of the Lower Esopus Watershed, and

WHEREAS, given the fiscal constraints of Ulster County, it is necessary to seek grant funding to assist in assessing management plans for the Lower Esopus.

**Resolution No. 261 July 12, 2006**

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature supports the Town of Hurley's grant application and requests strong consideration for approval of said application by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Ms. Becky Thomas, Hudson River Estuary Program, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Albany, New York 12233-4250,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

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