

**In Support Of State Funding For Belleayre Mountain Ski Center**

Chairman David B. Donaldson and Legislators Berardi, Bischoff, Cahill, Dart, Distel, Gregorius, Kraft, Liepmann, Lomita, Loughran, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, Terpening and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, tourism is critical to the economy of Ulster County and Belleayre Mountain Ski Center plays a critical role in that tourism economy by attracting more than 200,000 a year, and

WHEREAS, Belleayre Mountain has the potential to attract even more tourists, most of whom cross the entire County on Route 28 to get there, and

WHEREAS, dozens of studies by public, private and government agencies over the last 50 years have identified Belleayre Mountain as the economic lynchpin of the entire region, which is economically depressed and in dire need of this economic catalyst, and

WHEREAS, it is one of the only major tourist attractions in the County pulling visitors in during the months of January, February and March, and

WHEREAS, it employs and creates employment for more than 1,000 people each year, and

WHEREAS, our hotels, restaurants, gift shops and other related industry rely heavily on the skier traffic created by Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, and

WHEREAS, the ski center was created on forever wild land in the Catskill Forest Preserve by virtue of an amendment to the New York State Constitution approved in 1974 by votes in the State and can never “be leased, sold or exchanged or taken by any corporation, public or private”, and

WHEREAS, the voters of the State approved another constitutional amendment in 1987 authorizing an expansion of the State owned ski center, and

WHEREAS, investment of public funding in economic development is the legitimate business of State government because all residents of the State benefit from economic development initiatives, and

WHEREAS, the recreational needs of the citizens is a legitimate concern of government and Belleayre Mountain provides a four season recreation facility for citizens from all over the State, and



**Resolution No. 262 July 11, 2007**

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Legislator Shapiro motioned, seconded by Legislator Gregorius to amend the resolution to remove the 2<sup>nd</sup> "FURTHER RESOLVED" as indicated by [ ] and double strikethroughs.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

Legislator Zimet motioned, seconded by Legislator Donaldson to amend the resolution to add to the "RESOLVED", "Ski Center" after Belleayre Mountain, as shown above.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

0729