

Extending Gratitude To The Governor, Senator Bonacic And Assemblyman Cahill For Their Efforts Advocating For Belleayre Ski Center As An Important Regional Resource And Urging The Governor And The New York State Legislature To Consider An Increase In Future Funding Given The Importance Of Belleayre To The Economics Of The Area

Legislators Aiello, Bischoff, Briggs, Cahill, Cummings, Dart, Decker, Donaldson, Fabiano, Felicello, Gerentine, Gregorius, Hansut, Harris, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, Maloney, Noonan, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete, Petit, Provenzano, Roberti, Roberts, Rodriguez, Ronk, Shapiro, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, Terpening, Terrizzi and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, located in the heart of the Catskill Mountains, Highmount, New York in the County of Ulster, is situated in an area where a great deal of the local municipalities are comprised of dedicated “forever wild” State Park lands in the Catskill State Park, and

WHEREAS, municipalities proximal to the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, and the County of Ulster as a whole, have been positioned to promote Ulster County as a recreational center full of natural views, vistas and a multitude of recreational opportunities affordable to the general populace, who either live regionally or visit from out of our area and even our State, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has chosen to move the popular Columbus Day Weekend 2008 Fall Festival from Belleayre Mountain (Ulster County) to the Delaware and Ulster Railroad in Arkville, New York (Delaware County), and was considering further cuts to staff and programs for the coming 2008-2009 ski season at Belleayre Mountain, and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of Senator John Bonacic and Assemblyman Kevin Cahill advocating for Belleayre Ski Center as an important regional resource for the citizens and local communities along the Route 28 Corridor, NYS DEC Commissioner Peter Grannis and Governor David A. Paterson have acknowledged the significance of this facility to the region by putting forth a reasonable plan that accounts for the current pressures in the economy as well as destabilizing energy costs; working closely with DEC to resolve this issue, they prioritized the need for a full season with a diversity of programs at a reasonable price and that is what is being delivered, and

WHEREAS, in response to the State’s fiscal situation, Belleayre is taking a number of steps this season to operate more efficiently while continuing to deliver a world-class regional skiing experience; Belleayre Mountain will be open for riding and skiing seven days a week for the 2008-2009 season, with weather and conditions

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permitting, with opening day scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 28, 2008 and will run through March 2009, and

WHEREAS, all programming will be available, including the popular “Kidscamp,” racing programs, and new this year, the adaptive ski program with trained instructors from Belleayre and Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Hospital providing coaching for the adaptive community, and

WHEREAS, current funding will provide for: snowmaking and grooming on most of the mountain to remain unchanged, advertising to be reduced, other operational and administrative efficiencies to be achieved with no impact on skier safety or any essential operations or maintenance of the ski area; season ticket prices to remain the same as last year and only a slight increase in daily lift tickets to account for higher fuel costs and increases in other operational costs, and

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature extends gratitude to the Governor, Senator Bonacic and Assemblyman Cahill for their prompt attention to this Belleayre funding issue and strongly urges the Governor and the New York State Legislature to support an increase in future funding given the importance of Belleayre to the economics of the area, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, New York State Comptroller’s Office, Senate Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Senate Minority Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Thomas Kirwan, the New York State Association of Counties and Pete Grannis, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and the Shandaken Town Board,

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and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 27 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Aiello, Briggs, Kraft,
Shapiro, Sheeley and Zimet)
(Legislator R.A. Parete arrived at 7:25 PM)
(Legislator Terrizzi arrived at 7:48 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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