

**Requesting The State Of New York To Provide Funding And Other Support For The Completion Of The Catskill Interpretive Center At The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation Day Use Area On Route 28 In The Hamlet Of Mount Tremper, Town Of Shandaken, New York**

The Economic Development, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Rodriguez and Legislators Berardi, Gregorius, Loughran, Sheeley, Alfonso and Roberti) and Legislators Bartels, Kraft, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete and Shapiro offer the following:

WHEREAS, over ten years ago, the New York State Legislature set aside approximately \$6 million for the planning and execution of the Catskill Interpretive Center in Shandaken in order to attract visitors to the area, provide information regarding the history and ecology of the Catskill State Forest and Catskill Park, and spur tourism and foster economic revival in the Central Catskills, and

WHEREAS, architectural blueprints and exhibit plans have been created and a 62-acre parcel of land has been acquired by the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development and the Trust for Public Land and leased to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and

WHEREAS, initial site preparation with roads, a bridge, two short (0.5 mile) loop trails, and multiple parking areas has been completed, representing an investment of approximately \$1.5 million, and

WHEREAS, the NYSDEC has completed an Environmental Impact Statement and a Comprehensive Educational Use Plan for the Catskill Interpretive Center; and

WHEREAS, the site is currently being managed as a NYSDEC Day Use Area in close proximity to the Esopus Creek and NYS Wilderness and Wild Forest Areas, and

WHEREAS, the Towns of Shandaken, Olive and Woodstock and numerous planning bodies have long supported the notion of an Interpretive Center at the NYSDEC Day Use Area in Mount Tremper, and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Catskill Interpretive Center have revised and updated the budget, now estimated at \$7 million to complete construction of the proposed Catskill Interpretive Center, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

Resolution No. 35 January 3, 2007

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature go on record as supporting the construction of the Catskill Interpretive Center at the NYSDEC Day Use Area, while preserving the natural beauty and wilderness character of the surrounding area, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Eliot Spitzer, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, 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, Daniel L. Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

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