

Endorsing The Lower-Build Alternative To The Proposed Belleayre Resort Development Project In Catskill State Park

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

WHEREAS, Catskill Park is a region of outstanding beauty, culture and history containing watershed lands that supply drinking water to 9 million residents in New York City and more than 60 upstate communities, including municipalities in Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park, which would occupy 573 developed acres and would comprise two 18-hole golf courses, two hotel complexes, hundreds of time-share units and 99 buildings in total, constitutes the largest development project ever proposed in Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2005, New York State Environmental Conservation Department Administrative Law Judge Richard Wissler issued a ruling in which he found that twelve significant and substantive environmental issues have not yet been adequately addressed by the developers and that full adjudicatory hearings are necessary on those issues to ensure that any final development proposal satisfied fundamental requirements of State Law, and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2005, the release of "A Lower-Build Alternative To The Proposed Belleayre Resort Development Project in Catskill Park," advanced a compromise approach to the ongoing development dispute that would, among other things, transfer the entire environmentally sensitive eastern parcel of the development site to the State for incorporation into the Catskill Forest Preserve without use or consideration of eminent domain proceedings, and allow for environmentally sound development, consistent with the scale and character of its surroundings, on a portion of the western parcel of the development site, and

WHEREAS, the "Lower-Build Alternative To The Proposed Belleayre Resort Development Project in Catskill Park" proposal appears to be a practicable compromise with potential to advance economic interests and environmental objectives in Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Committee has met and reviewed said request with majority of the members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature endorses the "Lower-Build Alternative To The Proposed Belleayre Resort Development Project In Catskill Park" pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.11(d)(5) of the regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and supports the objective of protecting the

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environmentally sensitive eastern Big Indian Plateau parcel, while allowing for sound development on the western Wildacres parcel, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, the New York State Association of Counties and Denise Sheehan, Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Emily Lloyd, Commissioner, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Dean Gitter, Managing Partner, Crossroads Ventures, LLC and Tom Alworth, Executive Director, Catskill Center for Conservation and Development,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

0238

REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE