

**Supporting Off-Track Betting (OTB) Customer Cash Rebates – To Be Ordered With No Further Depletion Of OTB Revenues To Counties**

The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Cummings and Legislators Busick, Noonan, Stock, Tipp, Dart, Feldmann, Lomita and R.A. Parete) offers the following:

WHEREAS, since inception, through participation in Catskill Off-Track Betting Corporation (OTB), member counties have received more than \$180 million dollars as their share of wagering activities conducted by the Corporation through 2004, and

WHEREAS, Ulster County has benefited by participation in Catskill OTB Corporation, with a national reputation for “best in the nation” distribution of per capita benefits to member counties, and

WHEREAS, since inception, Catskill OTB Corporation has generated over \$220 million for the support of horse racing in the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, the Catskill OTB has paid over \$10 million to participating counties in the year 2003, and nearly \$8 million in 2004, and

WHEREAS, a “special overseer” appointed by the United States District Court has recommended and urged that the State of New York authorize cash rebates for customers of the New York Racing Association and the OTB Corporations of New York State, and

WHEREAS, such recommendations would help OTB to better compete with certain “off shore” and out of state betting operators which do offer such handsome rebates for their customers, and

WHEREAS, such betting operators are granted an advantage by New York State over such New York State OTB Corporations, and in particular, Catskill OTB, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to compete upon a level playing field, and

WHEREAS, it would be fair if New York State OTB and such “out of state/off shore” betting operators were similarly burdened with financial support for the New York Racing Association.

**Resolution No. 316 November 10, 2005**

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges the Governor of New York State to propose legislation and/or issue determinations that would permit New York State OTB Corporations to pay no more to the New York Racing Association than the most favorable payments similar to those payments charged to and paid by such certain out of state and off-shore betting operators, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that OTB Corporations be authorized and empowered to offer such specially funded rebates for customer betting plateaus that will encourage such betting at the exclusively authorized OTB Corporations of New York State, 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 the President of Catskill OTB Corporation,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
UNKNOWN

1126

**REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE**