

Urging Supportive Funding From The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation For The Belleayre Ski Center

Legislator Shapiro on behalf of the Environmental Committee (Chairman Shapiro and Legislators Bischoff, R.A. Parete, Rodriguez, Fabiano, Petit and Roberts) offers the following:

WHEREAS, the Belleayre ski Center was established through a constitutional amendment process over 60 years ago, and

WHEREAS, the Belleayre Ski Center in Ulster County has provided skiing in the Catskills for over 60 Years, attracting over 175,000 visitors per year, providing jobs and revenue, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation may be planning to sharply reduce its operating budget for Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, and

WHEREAS, recent reports show that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation may sharply reduce or eliminate altogether the operating budget for Belleayre Mountain, and

WHEREAS, the Ski Center's October Festival, which has been an economic asset for the facility for most of its 20 plus years of operation, bringing as many as 16,000 people to our community for one single weekend, has been moved out of Ulster County without proper explanation by the NYSDC, and

WHEREAS, the NYSDEC may be considering reducing the ski season by a month or more shorter than the previous year, and

WHEREAS, New York State has a special economic obligation to this area because of the extensive holding of forest preserve and watershed land by the State and city of New York, and

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

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges continued support and funding from the NYSDEC for the Belleayre Ski Center, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature states its opposition to moving the Ski Center's October Festival outside of Ulster County, as it negatively impacts the local economy, and

Resolution No. 328 October 7, 2008

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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, United States Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer, United States Congressman Maurice Hinchey, 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 National Association of Counties, the New York State Association of Counties, Tony Lanza, Superintendent, Belleayre Ski Center, Willie Janeway, Director, NYS DEC Region 3, Judith Enck, NYS Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Peter Grannis, Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation,

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