Resolution No. 432 December 12, 2007

Requesting Extension Of The Public Comment Scoping Period For The Wildacres Resort And Highmount Spa Resort Complex And Related Proposals By The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

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

WHEREAS, according to §617.8 (e) of the State Environmental Quality Review Law, “Scoping must include an opportunity for public participation. The lead agency may either provide a period of time for the public to review and provide written comments on a draft scope or provide for public input through the use of meetings, exchanges of written material, or other means, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will hold two scoping meetings to provide information and receive comments about developments proposed for properties around and including the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center in the Catskill Mountain region, and

WHEREAS, these two public meetings on the proposed project, to be held on December 10 and December 11, 2007, at the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, represent the sole opportunity for public comment during the NYSDEC scoping period, and

WHEREAS, the NYSDEC scoping comment period designated from December 11, 2007 through January 7, 2008, occurs during a holiday period which may restrict full and purposeful public comment, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature encourages and supports full public participation in all State Environmental Quality Review Act processes, and

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

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature requests from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation a two week extension of the scoping period for public review and input on developments proposed for properties around and including the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center in the Catskill Mountain region, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Eliot Spitzer, United States Congressman Maurice Hinchey, Judith Enck, New York State Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Daniel T. Whitehead, DEC Environmental Analyst Division of
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Environmental Permits, New York State Administrative Law Judge Richard Wissler, Supervisor, Town of Shandaken, New York, Supervisor, Town of Middletown, New York, Dean Gitter, Crossroads Ventures, LLC, and Richard Schaedle, Chairman, Catskill Heritage Alliance,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 19 NOES: 8
(NOES: Legislators Alfonso, Busick, Cummings, Dart, Gerentine, Harris, McAfee and Noonan)
(Absent: Legislators Aiello, Every, Fabiano, Felicello, Roberti and Stoeckeler)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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