

# COUNTY OF ULSTER

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## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dave Haldeman, Chair  
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Date: March 3, 2020

John Konior, Chair  
Town of Kingston Planning Board  
906 Sawkill Road  
Kingston, NY 12401

### **RE: 850 Route 28 Project / Environmental Assessment**

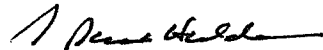
The Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC) was established by the Ulster County Charter to "Advise the County Executive and the County Legislature on all matters affecting the preservation, conservation and ecologically suitable use of the natural resources of the County." It's in this role that EMC is expressing its concern about the environmental assessment of the proposed concrete manufacturing facility located in the Town of Kingston adjacent to the Catskill Park's Bluestone Wild Forest and property recently conveyed by Open Space Institute to DEC for incorporation into the Bluestone Forest.

The Town of Kingston Planning Board, at its August 2019 meeting, rescinded its Negative Declaration for the Project allowing time for the board to consider additional information received from the public. The location and size of the Project suggests it will have a significant impact on the public's use of the Bluestone Forest. A thorough environmental assessment is warranted. A Positive Declaration under SEQR would trigger a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address issues that might interfere with the public's enjoyment of the recreational benefits of the forest.

Ulster County is a leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability. In 2015, the county government was ranked 23rd in the nation in commitment to using green power; and in 2016, the county was featured in National Geographic magazine for its environmental initiatives and achievements. The recent efforts by OSI and others to expand the Catskill Park Bluestone Forest are consistent with Ulster County's stated environmental ambitions.

EMC urges the Town of Kingston Planning Board to issue a Positive Declaration under SEQRA to review and carefully consider the environmental impact of 850 Route 28 LLC's project on the Catskill Park Bluestone Wild Forest and surrounding properties.

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Haldeman", written in a cursive style.

Dave Haldeman, Chair

CC:

David B. Donaldson, Chair, Ulster County Legislature

Patrick K. Ryan, Ulster County Executive