

Attachment IX.A.1.b.-2



P.O. Box 405
Mongaup Valley, NY 12762

Phone: (845) 791-4200
Fax: (845) 791-4220
chamber@catskills.com

Ms. Gail P. Thorpe
Supervisor of Contract Administration
New York State Gaming Commission
Contracts Office
One Broadway Center
Schenectady, NY 12301-7500

Dear Ms. Thorpe,

I am submitting this letter to you in support of the EPR Properties and Empire Resorts Project. The \$750 million EPR Properties and Empire Resorts project is positioned to become a great force for economic improvement, job creation and community engagement. A four-star resort and gaming destination, the project is sure to attract a wide variety of visitors from across this region of the U.S and possibly nationally and internationally. The resort will be built on a 1,700-acre site in the Catskills, one of the most accessible and striking areas of New York State. It has been designed to offer a diverse array of experiences, from indoor and outdoor recreational activities to fine dining, shopping and gaming.

The Sullivan County community will benefit greatly from construction. The boom in tourism will positively impact local businesses, while the resort itself will offer thousands of permanent jobs to area residents. By the end of the construction period, the resort will have created about 2,200 new permanent jobs, resulting in \$60 million in annual employee compensation. These jobs will go a long way toward reducing Sullivan County's unemployment rate.

In addition, the resort's construction alone will create more than 2,550 jobs. These contributions to the region's economy and tourism industry have positioned EPR Properties and Empire Resorts to achieve the economic investment and tourism goals required from the state in its Gaming Economic Development Act. The lodging options alone will include more than 1,100 hotel rooms in five different venues: the casino hotel, bed and breakfast, resort hotel, adventure hotel and waterpark hotel. The individuals and families being housed at the resort will undoubtedly want to explore the Sullivan County area, resulting in more business for local companies.

Area businesses will see even greater benefits than a spike in tourism, however. EPR Properties and Empire Resorts are working to form proactive and lucrative partnerships with local companies and entertainment venues. In addition, the organization's upcoming job training program will provide valuable training and many future employment and advancement opportunities for college graduates.

Sullivan County residents and businesses will see tremendous benefits from this project's construction and operation. Increased tourism will boost local businesses, while the resort's temporary construction-related jobs and permanent full- and part-time positions will go a long way in alleviating unemployment rates throughout the county.

This doesn't even reference the local support that they have given throughout the last few years in the development of this project. They are long time Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Members and are consistently supportive of local business. I appreciate you taking my letter into consideration.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cathy Paty".

Cathy Paty
President/CEO



P.O. Box 405
Mongaup Valley, NY 12762

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January 14, 2013

Town of Thompson Town Board
Anthony Cellini, Town Supervisor
4052 Route 42
Monticello, NY 12701

Dear Mr. Cellini,

On behalf of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Staff, and over 600 business members I would like to express our full support for The EPT Concord Resort Project. This project will be the most transformative project our region has seen in decades. The positive impact it will have on, not only Sullivan County, but the entire Mid-Hudson Region is so significant that it has drawn personal attention from Governor Cuomo himself. Listed below are just some of this highlights of the project:

- The EPT Concord Resort is expected to create more than 2,600 FTE jobs.
- An additional 1,200 jobs will be created in Sullivan County because of the Resort's operation.
- Construction of the project is expected to support the equivalent of 632 full-time employees per year for 10 years.
- Construction of the project is expected to result in \$2.4B of economic activity in the State, including \$676M in employee compensation.
- The project would generate \$42.5M in property tax, with more than \$29M of that going to the school district.
- The Proposed Project would generate \$46.5 million annually for the state of New York through vendor track fees
- As the host communities for the video lottery gaming facility, Sullivan County and the Town of Thompson would receive approximately \$1.7 million and \$5.1 million annually from New York State.
- The project will help revitalize our community. It will build
 - 1,800 hotel rooms
 - More than 900,000 sf of commercial space
 - Entertainment and recreational uses
 - Rehabilitated Monster Golf Course
 - Nearly 900 new residential units
- The project will retain *at least* 696 acres of open space; 45% of the project site.
- The project will improve storm water management on the site, protecting the areas waterways from increased pollution.
- The Project will create unique neighborhood areas, creating centers of activity throughout the site.

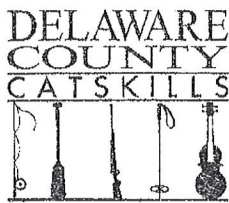
- The Project will become a destination for tourists and residents alike – truly something for everyone.
- The Project will create trails throughout the resort to encourage walking and biking and will connect the various pieces of the resort.
- The Casino Resort will serve as the anchor for the entire project, and will spur development in and around the project site.
- The casino hotel will be a new and significant building that will become a landmark for the region.

We also want to thank you and the entire Town of Thompson Town, Zoning, and Planning Boards for making the Town of Thompson such a friendly environment for businesses to open, relocate, and be retained. As always, we look forward to working with you on future economic development endeavors. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Terri Ward', with a stylized, flowing script.

Terri Ward
President/CEO



Delaware County Chamber of Commerce
5 ½ Main Street
Delhi, New York 13753
Phone: 607.746.2281 Fax: 607.746.3571
www.delawarecounty.org

April 18, 2014

Gail Thorpe
Supervisor of Contract Administration
NYS Gaming Facilities Location Board
1 Broadway Center
Schenectady, NY 12301-7500

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce fully supports the citing of two casinos destination resorts in the Catskill Region. The Catskill Region is known for its natural resources and has been a popular tourism destination for years. Due to the closing of major resorts throughout the years, the tourism industry has struggled to maintain its share of the tourism economy. The proposed development of two four-season sustainable resort gaming facilities will provide the necessary economic stimulus to reinvigorate the Catskill Region. The development and renovation of these former world class resort sites in the Catskills will not only stimulate the tourism economy in the Catskills but the Hudson Valley and Southern, increasing the opportunity for jobs, sales tax and ancillary business growth.

The many natural and man-made tourism attributes of the Catskills can set the stage for the creation of a multi-faceted destination as the developers of this project are aware that resorts of this magnitude can serve as a catalyst for visitor exploration of the entire tourism product of the Mid-Hudson/Catskill region setting these resort projects above other existing casino destinations across the country that only offer a one dimensional approach to casino resorts

Cross marketing projects with these developers include a virtual concierge touch screen located within the casino complex that promotes attractions, soft adventure, restaurants and established arts and cultural venues. Developers in the Catskill Region have plans to promote our local foods and craft spirits in its restaurants and stores that will carry locally made products offering visitors a "taste of New York".

Locating two casino destination resorts within the Catskills will create a synergy with close proximity to a major interstate thus increasing exponentially the economic stimulus to the Catskills and New York State.

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that positive consideration be given to the development projects located within the Catskill Region.

Sincerely,

James R. Thomson
Tourism Director



Pike County Chamber of Commerce
209 East Harford Street
Milford, PA 13887

January 14, 2013

Honorable Anthony Cellini and
Members of the Town of Thompson Board
4052 State Route 42
Monticello, NY 12701

Re: Endorsement of the Proposed Empire Resorts Development at Concord

Dear Tony and Members of the Board:

As an old time friend of the Town of Thompson and Sullivan County, I just wanted to encourage you to bring home the long-awaited 1,583 acre project at the Concord that is being proposed by Empire Resorts. While I cannot speak for all the elements of the SEQRA process, I do know this is a project that needs to be done for the well-being of the county and the region.

I want to personally make the point that without growth, the future of Sullivan County (or any economy) is bleak. As you know scores of studies done by the American Farmland Trust that for every \$1.00 paid in taxes by a residential taxpayer it costs municipal governments \$1.19 to provide them with services. For every \$1.00 paid by a commercial or industrial taxpayer it only costs the municipal government \$0.28 to provide services. Therefore, this project will substantially augment the revenue stream for Town, School and County services.

Also, as you know, the amount of new money brought to Sullivan County through the resort will be multiplied several times within the county. The last time I calculated it, I believe that the money coming into the resort will become income to about 2.54 local businesses. Local vendors will benefit and they will need new employees and the overall county economy will improve at a good rate.

Finally, the development of the Concord site will attract other new similar businesses and businesses that support the resort activities. These new businesses will bring their new income, jobs and commerce. It is said in Biology that you either grow or you begin to die. This project could do much to reverse the sometimes-difficult economic situation in Sullivan County by allowing the economy to grow.

I would encourage you and the board to do what is necessary to bring vigor and excitement back to a wonderful area and to the good people that live there.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michael J. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Sullivan
Executive Director

Resolution

Resolution Supporting Two Casino Licenses in the Catskill Region

Whereas the State of New York is in the process of reviewing and issuing licenses to operate gaming facilities in NY State as authorized by NY State law, and

Whereas, the Catskill Region of NY State has been known as a popular tourism destination for many years and has struggled to sustain a viable economy due to the closing of many of the long standing resort hotels over the years, and

Whereas, the intent of the legislation authorizing gaming facilities in NY State has always been stated as to use the location of hotel gaming facilities to boost the ailing economy of the Catskill Region, and

Whereas, developers are proposing to build a hotel gaming facility in Orange County, NY near Middletown, and

Whereas, the development of a facility in Orange County could indeed discourage many potential customers from visiting any hotel gaming facilities located further north in the Catskill Region and may even make development and financing of facilities in the Catskill Region extremely difficult due to this threat to the sustainability of their business model, therefore

Be it resolved, that the Board of Directors of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce opposes the development of a gaming facility in Orange County and asks the NY State Gaming Facilities Location Board to follow the legislative intent and allow siting of up to two hotel gaming facilities in the Catskill Region in order to provide the economic stimulus to reinvigorate the ailing economy of the Catskill Region and not approve any potential gaming location in Orange County. The development in the Catskill Region will not only stimulate the Catskills, it will also improve the economy of the entire Hudson Valley with increased opportunity for jobs, sales tax growth and opportunities for ancillary business growth.

I, Melissa Wakin Secretary of the Board do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce on the 20th day of June, 2014.

Melissa Wakin, Secretary

Cc:

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo

Sen. John J. Bonacic

Sen. James Seward

Sen. Tom Libous

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther

Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney

Assemblyman Clifford Crouch

Assemblyman Pete Lopez

Chairman James Eisel – Delaware County Board of Supervisors

Chairman Scott Samuelson – Sullivan County Legislature