

Attachment IX.A.1.b.-5



SULLIVAN
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
S · U · N · Y

Office of the President

112 College Road
Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759-5723
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June 16, 2014

New York State Gaming Commission Contracts Office
One Broadway Center
Schenectady, NY 12301-7500

Please accept this letter of strong support for Sullivan County casino applicant Empire Resorts. As a relative newcomer in my role as the president of SUNY Sullivan and to Sullivan County (I arrived in February 2013), my perspective is somewhat unique. I can attest with pleasant surprise to the enormity of excitement and hope our community has for casino development.

As the reader is probably aware, Sullivan County was once home to hundreds of hotels during a period affectionately dubbed the "borsch belt" era. Unfortunately as New York tourism shifted elsewhere most hotels closed, with some left as eyesores in a state of disrepair and leaving the county in a relatively desperate state of economic decline. I am told this decline began approximately 30 years ago. I am also told by long-standing locals that the state of Sullivan County has never been worse. I continue to admire the tenacity of these same lifelong residents as they fight for a better Sullivan County. Their zeal for casino applicants is heart-felt.

SUNY Sullivan was not immune to the effects of this slow but sure economic disaster. The College sits on 405 bucolic acres in the center of the county. Sadly it is surrounded by remnants of old bungalow colonies and hotels that are crumbling. Enrollments have also been significantly affected during these years due to the decline of tourism. Hospitality-related programs in particular enjoyed serving between 400 and 500 students during the seventies and eighties. These programs today have enrollments of approximately 65. This loss of enrollment negatively affects fiscal resources needed for operations, capital projects, and building maintenance. Current enrollments in programs such as these can barely sustain the college and similar to other county agencies there is not nearly enough money beyond the maintenance of the status quo for SUNY Sullivan to engage in 21st century change.

As the president of our small and excellent college, I have led the charge to do our part. We have officially partnered with Empire Resorts (Concord site, Monticello). We have conducted a needs assessment in collaboration with Empire Resorts/Concord and faculty and staff are poised to serve and assist this outstanding applicant.

The collaboration between Empire Resorts/Concord and SUNY Sullivan County Community College has been particularly effective. I am impressed by the project's primary staff. They have planned a project that deserves excellent marks for readiness, thorough planning, and professionalism. For example, the timing of our partnership was well enough in advance that SUNY Sullivan was able to assist with the synthesis of supportive research and with the preparation of the Workforce Enhancement Report. We believe this report will show that the evidence supporting casinos in Sullivan County is compelling. Sullivan County is the hardest hit in terms of economic decline in upstate New York and our county is experiencing high numbers of residents exiting, a shrinking tax base due to foreclosures, and even higher numbers of residents collecting a myriad of expensive government subsidies (unrelated to earned pensions). Thus, if the commission is taking a regional perspective in the broader state context, a perspective that attempts to revive counties with the greatest symptoms of economic suffering, the evidence will show that the Concord project should represent the optimal entry and border crossing between the voter approved casino boundary and greater metropolitan areas.

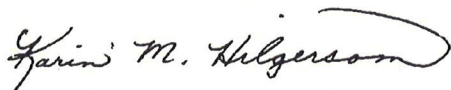
At SUNY Sullivan there is the belief that casino and hotel resort development in Sullivan County will create the full-time jobs that our graduates crave. More importantly such developments will also lead to significant population growth which will have an immediate impact on enrollment and funding.

Fortunately the college has ample capacity to serve these new students, including the resurgence of tourism-related programs. We are also positioned to assist casino developers in other career areas such as instructional technology and management training. SUNY Sullivan has a strong mix of transfer related education and career and technical education offerings. We are proud of our traditions, traditions that include a nationally accredited business program, seamless transfer to SUNY universities, and a mature hospitality and culinary arts program. We are also home to a nationally-recognized green building management program and our sustainability studies are an overarching theme of the college.

There will be other positive effects if casinos and resorts locate to Sullivan County. Small businesses will have a customer base to serve, and businesses that cannot survive in the current state of the county and her dilapidated main streets can be prosperous once again. Thus our college has plans to expand educational offerings for entrepreneurs. Innovation will be key, and we are ready, poised, and willing to reinvent ourselves and assist in the renaissance of Sullivan County.

If you have any questions related to how SUNY Sullivan supports and is assisting in the casino resort efforts, please do not hesitate to contact me at 845-434-5750.

Sincerely,



Karin M. Hilgersom, Ph.D.
President, SUNY Sullivan



January 14, 2013

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

Dear Supervisor Cellini & Members of the Town Board:

I am writing in support of the proposed project by EPR Properties at the Concord Resort. This is a critical, transformative project for Sullivan County that will drive tourism, create long term sustainable employment and spur economic growth in our region.

The development is uniquely positioned to compliment our region's strategic plan. As a family and entertainment destination, the project will generate thousands of permanent full-time equivalent jobs and offer our young, educated professionals career opportunities close to home. As our county faces 9.2% unemployment (N.Y. State Department of Labor statistics for Sullivan County, November 2012), sustainable long term employment and private investment are crucial for our future.

The project will stimulate other investments and encourage growth in a variety of industries such as tourism, construction, financial and professional services, hospitality, healthcare, food and beverage, housing and more. Demand for goods and services will fuel ancillary businesses; promote entrepreneurship, start-ups, and the retention and growth of small and minority-owned business. Furthermore, it can contribute to the development of a green economy that leverages and protects the abundant natural resources in Sullivan County.

As our economy remains fragile both locally and nationwide, we must act when opportunities like this come along. The positive impact of an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars and the creation of new jobs cannot be overstated. Through public and private partnerships that leverage cross-regional resources like the EPR Concord Resort project, we can ensure a bright future for the region.

I urge you to support the EPR Concord Resort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darlene Fedun".

Darlene Fedun
Chief Executive Officer

Theatrical Arts at Forestburgh, Inc.

d/b/a The Forestburgh Playhouse

39 Forestburgh Road, Forestburgh, NY 12777

5/28/2014

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Theatrical Arts at Forestburgh, Inc. d/b/a The Forestburgh Playhouse, I would like to formally support EPR Properties and Empire Resorts' efforts to develop the Adelaar casino and family resort at the Concord site in Sullivan County Catskills. The Forestburgh Playhouse is a theatrical landmark in Sullivan County Catskills and in the State of New York as New York's oldest continuously running Summer Stock Theatre. The Forestburgh Playhouse is excited to collaborate with EPR Properties and Empire Resorts to keep the arts alive, provide quality entertainment in Sullivan County and grow our local business community in tandem with EPR Properties and Empire Resorts' endeavors to develop in Sullivan County. In addition, Forestburgh enthusiastically supports the granting of two casino licenses in the Sullivan County Catskills and will wholeheartedly support and encourage further development in our county.

Truly Yours,

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

Franklin Trapp



Ken

Monticello High School

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Tel: 845-794-8840 Fax: 845-794-8133

www.monticelloschools.net

Mr. Daniel A. Teplesky, *Superintendent of Schools*

Ms. Susan M. Purcell, *President - Board of Education*

"Building Excellence Through Trust"

Ms. Lori Orestano-James, *Principal* - lorestanojames@k12mcsd.net

Ms. Virginia Morse, *Asst. Principal* - vmorse@k12mcsd.net

Mr. Christopher Palmer, *Asst. Principal* - cpalmer@k12mcsd.net

June 4, 2014

To Whom It May Concern;

On behalf of the Monticello High School students, faculty and staff, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation for our "Emergency To-Go Buckets." Your support of the initiative of our Monticello High School Safety Team made it possible to move forward with the "Emergency To-Go Buckets" making this project that we have been working on for a few years a reality.

Our team recruited a student who was working on his Eagle Scout project and he in turn worked with many other students and scouts. Together we were able to design one hundred and twenty "Emergency To-Go Buckets" which are equipped with medical and essential supplies should we have an emergency situation in our building. This project would not have been possible without your support and commitment to our school community.

Safety of our students and those who enter our facility is of paramount importance to us. We applaud you and genuinely thank you for your substantial efforts and contributions in helping us to see this project through to fruition.

Sincerely yours,

Shari Biro
Coordinator of PPS 6-12 and Safety Team Member

Dennis Browne
Security and Safety Team Member

Lori Orestano-James
Principal and Safety Team Member