



CATSKILLCENTER

May 16, 2019
VIA EMAIL

Michael V. Grosso
NYSDEC
21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561

Re: Application ID: 3-5130-00030 / 00015
Applicant: 850 Route 28 LLC, c/o Tom Auringer, 180 Meister Blvd., Freeport, NY 11520.

Dear Mr. Grosso:

We write concerning the above-noted application and the requested permits. Your recent public notice printed in the Kingston Freeman was the first time we were made aware of this applicant's project. This property is directly adjacent to the recently acquired Open Space Institute (OSI) property from the Aldulaimi family.

We are collaborating with OSI in its work there to create public multi-use recreational trails which is planned to be conveyed to New York State DEC to become part of the Catskill Park Forest Preserve in the coming year or so, and will enable the linking of two popular trail systems in the Bluestone Wild Forest, owned by NYSDEC, and promises a multi-use recreational area ten minutes from the NY State Thruway, which not only will be widely used by locals, but will be a destination area for the public benefit and the burgeoning popularity of the Catskills in the NY Metro area, and worldwide.

In closing we appreciate DEC's thoughtful review of the requested permits and with great concern for the potential impacts to proposed recreational uses on adjacent lands; changed hydrological pattern caused by the proposed disturbance and its potential threat to the quality of the Praymaher Brook, as well as the Southeastern corner of the pristine Pickerel Pond; as well as the diminishment of important wetlands that clearly serve an important flood remediation function - particularly with the increase in intense rainfall events resultant from climate change - we feel that the denial of these requested permits is warranted.

Sincerely,

Jeff Senterman
Executive Director

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