



CATSKILLCENTER

May 20, 2019

John Konior, Chair - Town of Kingston Planning Board
906 Sawkill Road
Kingston NY 12401
via email: tokclerk@gmail.com

**RE: Comments for May 20th Public Hearing
850 Route 28 LLC Site Plan / Special Permit Applications**

Dear John Konior and the Town of Kingston Planning Board:

The Catskill Center opposes the Negative Declaration issued earlier this year by the Planning Board for the 850 Route 28 LLC proposed project, and we urge you to keep the public comment period open and not approve the project's site plan nor issue a special permit for this project until a more thorough review is conducted. As proposed, this is an extremely large, noisy, and unsightly project, requiring the clear-cutting of 21.7 acres of trees, the removal of 162,000 cubic yards of material from the site, optional blasting and crushing, and construction of two buildings totaling 240,000 square feet with additional adjacent impermeable space for oversized vehicles. Moreover, the proposed project is located in proximity to existing protected open space and hiking and biking trails in the Catskill Park's Bluestone Wild Forest and in proximity to additional planned recreational areas recently purchased by the Open Space Institute. Planning for recreational access on these lands is nearing completion and implementation is set to begin this year.

While our review of the project is not yet complete, we note that the project, on its face, poses serious adverse impact on Aesthetic Resources and on Open Space and Recreation. We urge you to re-evaluate these and other potential impacts in relation to the beautiful and economically valuable nearby public resources in the Catskill Park. Noise should be assessed in relation to levels in protected recreational areas. We are also concerned about potential impacts on wildlife, especially threatened and endangered species.

Please rescind your Negative Declaration under SEQRA and offer an extended public comment period, in order for all potential adverse impacts to be considered fully. We strongly urge that you withhold permits until this application can be fully assessed and suitable mitigations and alternatives investigated.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Senterman
Executive Director

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