

January 14, 2008

Governor Eliot Spitzer (D)

State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
518-474-8390

Dear Governor Spitzer,

I am the future and I care very strongly about how me and my peers future is going to be here in the Catskill Mountains. I do not want a development on the top of Belleayre Mountain. It will ruin the beauty and community feeling of Belleayre.

My name is Alexa and I am 12 years old. I have lived in the Catskills all of my life and think it is a beautiful, quiet, peaceful place to live. I love to hike, bike and swim in the peace and beauty of the mountains.

If a huge development is built on top of Belleayre Mountain, looking at the mountains will no longer be beautiful. Looking at the mountains will be more like looking at a field of condos and 13 story hotels. Nothing would be beautiful any more. The development will obstruct the natural view in any season. For example, in the fall when you look up at the beautiful mountains you would see leaves changing color, then right smack dab in the middle would be some horrible ugly condos. Who wants to look at that?

There are other things to consider too. What about water? Pesticides are going to be used to grow grass, plant flowers, keep flowers alive, etc. These pesticides will be used at the top of a mountain and we all know that because of the law of gravity the liquid will run down the mountain to the closest stream in the valleys near by. This will change the water quality from great to horrible. There will no longer be clear streams, healthy fish or filterless reservoirs.

The Catskill Mountains will no longer be quiet. There will be hundreds of more cars an hour speeding along making tons of noise and destroying the peaceful atmosphere.

Belleayre Mountain itself a beautiful place where community members get together to ski and snowboard and have fun. With a huge development it will no longer be like that. The condos will only be available to wealthy people who can afford them. And with these expensive condos, the natural beauty of Belleayre Mountain will disappear.

I am the future generation of the Catskill Mountains and I do not want the environment to be for every polluted and destroyed because a development on top of a mountain.

Sincerely,

Alexa Oakes
7th grader
Onteora Middle School