

## 2013-J4740

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Catskill Mountain Club upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition by the Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce on May 21, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by the availability of exceptional recreational clubs and activities offered throughout communities across this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Catskill Mountain Club upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition by the Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its annual awards dinner on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at Hanah Country Club and Resort in Margaretville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The idea of the Catskill Mountain Club was developed in 2003 when a few employees of the Catskill Center decided the region needed its own club to promote non-motorized outdoor recreation for all age groups and abilities; and

WHEREAS, Catskill Mountain Club was officially launched in 2004, by an all-volunteer board of directors; 14 members now serve on the board, and several are officers and directors of other regional outdoor organizations, including Finger Lakes Trail Conference, The Catskill 3500 Club, and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference; and

WHEREAS, After a decade of serving the community, Catskill Mountain Club has grown from a small, dedicated group of hikers, to a non-profit corporation with more than 800 participants; the club has become the area's premiere source of organized group hiking, paddling, skiing, biking, trail stewardship and family outdoor educational events in the Catskill Park and region; and

WHEREAS, Catskill Mountain Club's mission is to not only build and preserve trails and waterways, but to improve the local community as well; two trails were built in the Town of Andes, and two more trails are planned for 2014 on New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) land; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the club has been leading group paddles on the Pepacton and Cannonsville Reservoirs, both opened by the DEP within the past few years; and

WHEREAS, Catskill Mountain Club has joined with other local groups to create the Catskill Park Coalition, formed to educate the state on the Catskill region's needs for support; with a growth in recreational usage by residents and visitors, the coalition is dedicated to promoting a strong infrastructure and appropriate DEC staffing to ensure its continued success; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, Catskill Mountain Club may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the recreational and sporting needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Catskill Mountain Club upon the occasion of its designation for special recognition by the Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Catskill Mountain Club.