

Save the Mountain

United to Preserve Catskill Park Communities & Environment

The Real Belleayre

There are two Belleayres, so don't believe statements intended to blur the lines between our *public* Belleayre Mountain and its Ski Center, part of the Catskill Park and forest preserve, VS the *private* proposed Belleayre Resort, a for-profit real estate development.

The first is our beloved, state-run, publicly funded, family-friendly Belleayre Mountain where thousands of skiers and hikers, including us, recreate year-round. It's an essential part of the state park and forest preserve that belongs to us all; its Ski Center is even mentioned in the state constitution. And it's an essential engine of our local economy. See the recent Newsday article:

http://www.newsday.com/travel/skiing/ny-hjyu5440599nov04.0.3130751.story?coll=ny_travel_skiing_util

The other is the *proposed* Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park—private, for-profit, and now wending its way, with difficulty, through the state-mandated environmental quality review process, SEQR. This second Belleayre with its hotels, spas, restaurants, shops, gates, houses, condos, roads, lights, etc., could well become a disaster for our first Belleayre—and for our local communities and our local economy as a result.

We're concerned that building this outsized proposed Resort might hurt the long-promised expansion of the public Ski Center it would abut. We're worried that a huge high-end real estate development—really a sizeable city—would crowd this public recreational facility, degrade the outdoor experience and even raise lift and rental prices.

What's more, many of the "improvements" to the Ski Center being touted as part of the Agreement in Principle on the Resort are actually special perks for Resort guests. We don't like the idea of our tax dollars—and yours—going to build and maintain ski lifts, special trails, and snowmaking equipment to enhance the profit and enjoyment of a few. We'd like to be sure that public money creates recreation opportunities that all the public can access, not just those able to pay top dollar to stay in an oversized, overpriced Resort.

So don't be confused. When you hear people telling you there's just one Belleayre, they mean the one that would overwhelm, overtake, and maybe engulf the Belleayre Mountain we all love with its public Ski Center. Hold onto your wallets when they start talking, and remind them that the real Belleayre is part of a state park that belongs to all New Yorkers.