

August 10, 2022

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8/23/22

Chris Matthews, Supervisor  
Town of Neversink  
273 Main Street  
Grahamsville, NY 12740

Dear Supervisor Matthews and Town of Neversink Board Members,

I am writing to you to express my support for the Kerilands project.

By way of background, I was a second-generation seasonal resident of Sullivan County for more than 40 years until relocating to Bethel, NY on a full-time basis. It was always our plan to make Bethel our permanent home and we were fortunate to be able to do so several years ago.

Both my wife and I grew up spending summers in Bethel and working at local businesses such as Kutsher's Hotel & Country Club, Mulvey's Sporting Goods in Monticello, Shoprite in Monticello, etc. when we were old enough to do so. As such, I have a keen sense of the robustness that permeated the region during the best of its economic times. Interestingly, I don't recall any of my friends, many of whom were full-time residents at that time, ever lamenting the fact that Broadway in Monticello or Main Street in Liberty were too busy or that it was hard to get a seat at El Monaco Restaurant in White Lake or Poppy's Ice Cream Parlor in Parksville on a Friday. Yet, despite that the area has suffered significant economic decline, for various reasons, many of which not in anyone's control, I am aware that there are some people that believe that new projects/opportunities that would facilitate meaningful economic improvement to the region, may not be beneficial for us. When I think about the Kerilands project, I give consideration to two important questions; First, would this project be economically good for the community, and second, would Kerilands be a good partner.

As to the first, I am a firm believer that any project that would bring people to the region and contribute to the economic well being of the region should be considered. Purely by coincidence, I was previously employed by an investment firm that was the majority shareholder of Six Senses. Although I did not have direct involvement with Six Senses, as a member of the parent firm, I was reasonably intimate with the Six Senses operating philosophy and value proposition, and as such, I am confident that their economic contribution would be significant and have long standing positive impact on the community way beyond the actual confines of the development itself.

As to the second, Six Senses has been and will continue to be one of the leading examples as to how commercial interests can align with the greater good of the community, both locally and beyond. Six Senses commitment and leadership to wellness, community, and sustainable designs to promote personal health, and the health of our planet are timely and critical and will have broad appeal to individuals and families that share similar core values, a wonderful benefit that would accrue to our community.

After years of economic challenges since the robust days of past in Sullivan County, we are slowly coming back. While every existing or potentially new project may not appeal to every individual, the collective nature of many good projects will most certainly work together in a synergistic manner to build a bigger, better, stronger region and one that will be appealing and exciting to visit or reside in. Resorts World, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts (for which I am a Trustee), as well as many other smaller local projects are creating momentum in the community that we cannot afford to lose. I believe that Kerilands presents our community with an opportunity to build upon that momentum and serve as a catalyst to attract further interest in the community while at the same time serving as a pre-eminent leader for health, wellness and sustainable living.

As referenced earlier in my letter, I am second generation Sullivan County, but I am pleased to say that my adult children, who have spent every summer of their entire lives here, share a similar passion for the region and are anxious to see projects that they believe will benefit the region come to life so that their families can experience the next generation of excitement that the region has to offer.

I hope that the Town of Neversink Board will see the greater good that the Kerilands projects would bring to the community and will look favorably on its request to move forward.

Sincerely,



Steve Marton