

The Western New York Environmental Alliance



Robert E. Knoer Chair
Judith Einach Vice Chair
Loren Smith Secretary
Arthur Wheaton Treasurer

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Anthony Armstrong
Justin Booth
Jay Burney
Erin Heaney
Megan Mills Hoffman
Kerri Bentkowski Li
Thomas Herrera-Mishler
Micaela Shapiro-Shellaby
Terry L. Yonker

February 20, 2012

Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz
Rath County Office Building
95 Franklin Street 16th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

EE

Re: **Disc Golf Course at Chestnut Ridge Park**

Hon. Poloncarz:

The Board of Directors of the Western New York Environmental Alliance wishes to thank you and your administrations for taking a more thoughtful look at the construction of an additional Disc Golf Course at Chestnut Ridge Park.

The proposed course would invade an area of secluded forest known for its eternal flame imbedded in a beautiful waterfall. Hikers have come here for decades to enjoy the quiet natural setting. Some trees have already been taken down. As soon as the goalposts are installed, there is concern that crowds of players will trample the fragile native under story and leave the barren expanses of mud. After becoming aware of this issue, several of our member organizations initiated a process that has resulted in this letter. They are concerned with the potential lack of public knowledge, participation or understanding in decision making.

In our *Declaration of Environmental Action* we acknowledged that: "Unfortunately, much of our natural heritage has been lost and what remains is threatened. And, like the rest of the world, we face the prospects of climate change. We therefore establish this agenda to protect and restore our globally significant environment".

In our *Shared Agenda for Action* we proposed to "Mobilize the public and policymakers to improve the environment" and to "Act as the environmental watchdog: monitor the environmental behavior of citizens and policy-makers".

We appreciate your administration's response to the Alliance Member request for reconsideration on this issue. We look forward to working with you and your administration in developing thoughtful and effective stewardship of our natural and built environment.

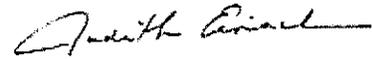
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The Western New York Environmental Alliance

Respectfully yours,



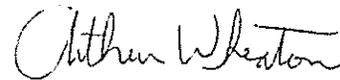
Robert E. Knoer
Chair, WNYEA Board of
Directors



Judith Einach
Vice Chair, Pollution and Waste
Working Group



Loren Smith Secretary,
Education and Outreach
Process Group



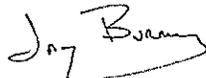
Arthur Wheaton
Treasurer, at Large



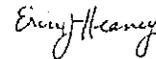
Anthony Armstrong
Urban Regeneration
Working Group



Thomas Herrera-Mishler
Parks and Recreation Working
Group



Jay Burney
Habitat & Natural
Resources Working
Group



Erin Heaney
Environmental Justice Working
Group



Megan Mills Hoffman
Food, Gardens,
Agriculture Working
Group



Justin Booth
Transportation Working Group

The Western New York Environmental Alliance

Kerri Bentkowski L

Kerri Bentkowski Li
Organizational Capacity
Process Group

M/S/S

Micaela Shapiro-Shellaby
Issues & Advocacy Process Group

Terry L. Yonker

Terry L. Yonker
Energy & Climate
Change Working Group

REK/lh

CC: Commissioner Troy Schinzel, Orchard Park Parks
Commissioner Maria R. Whyte,
Erie County Legislature Office of the Clerk ✓
Evelyn Hicks, Chair of the Environmental Management Council