



PRESS RELEASE

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Legislature Passes Resolution to Amend Article 14 of the NYS Constitution for Mt. Van Hoevenberg Winter Sports Complex

The Senate and Assembly have passed the Resolution needed to advance the proposed Article 14 Constitutional Amendment for Mt. Van Hoevenberg to the voters in November

For more information, call Protect the Adirondacks:

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The Legislature has passed a Resolution proposing an amendment to Article 14 of the New York State Constitution for the Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Sports Complex in Lake Placid. Senator Pete Harckham and Assemblymember Billy Jones introduced the Constitutional Amendment (S.5227/A.7454) and the enabling legislation (S.6888/A.3628).

Protect the Adirondacks, Inc. (PROTECT) supports the proposed Article 14 amendment because it will resolve constitutional violations at the Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Sports Complex that have taken place over the years as the facilities were expanded and upgraded, most recently in advance of the 2023 World University Games.

“This amendment ensures that Mount Van Hoevenberg is brought into compliance with Article 14 of the Constitution, and it provides a clear framework for what enhancements can be made to the facilities there in the future,” said Claudia Braymer, Executive Director of PROTECT. “We urge the voters to vote yes on this amendment in November.”

Proposed Constitutional Amendments must pass the Legislature in two consecutive Legislative sessions. This proposed Amendment passed in 2023 during the 2023-2024 Legislative session and has now passed in 2025 during the 2025-2026 Legislative session. Accordingly, the Constitutional Amendment will go to the voters in November for a vote on whether to amend the Constitution with the proposed language.

The proposed Constitutional Amendment would authorize the State to use up to 323 acres of the 1,039 acres in the Mount Van Hoevenberg Winter Sports Complex for the construction, operation and maintenance of Nordic skiing and biathlon trails and a stadium for training, competition and world class events, and necessary facilities such as access

Protect the Adirondacks!

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roads, parking lots, offices, lodges and snowmaking equipment. The enabling legislation sets forth what types of facilities would not be allowed (e.g., hotels, swimming pools, zip lines). In exchange, the State must acquire for incorporation into the Forest Preserve at least 2500 acres of forest land in the Adirondack Park. The enabling legislation (S.6888/A.3628) still needs to pass the Legislature.

The Mount Van Hoevenberg complex is a state-owned and operated facility managed by the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and is located on the constitutionally protected Forest Preserve. The lands occupied by the complex are classified as “Intensive Use” by the Adirondack Park Agency. The complex also includes 319 acres of adjoining land owned by the Town of North Elba; the Town-owned lands are not subject to the Constitutional Amendment. The complex includes the Olympic bobsled and luge track, cross-country skiing and biathlon trails, and associated facilities.

More background information is available here:

<https://www.protectadks.org/constitutional-amendment-for-the-mount-van-hoevenberg-winter-sports-complex-is-poised-for-second-passage/>

Protect the Adirondacks

Protect the Adirondacks is an IRS-approved non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park. Our mission is to protect the Adirondack Park’s wild character for current and future generations. PROTECT pursues this mission through a combination of advocacy, grassroots organizing, independent public oversight, research, water quality monitoring, education, and legal action. Protect the Adirondacks was formed in 2009 as the result of a merger between two long-standing environmental conservation groups in the Adirondack Park, the Resident’s Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (est. 1991) and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (est. 1901).

Protect the Adirondacks is managed by a 18-member Board of Directors of Adirondack leaders with expertise in environmental law, local government, Adirondack environmental and cultural history, state agency management, and small business. Protect the Adirondacks maintains an office in a 100% energy efficient, solar-and wind-powered office in Johnsburg in the central Adirondacks. For more information see www.protectadks.org and @ProtectAdkPark.

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