

October 4, 2022

Town of Highland
Planning Board Members
Town Hall
4 Proctor Road
Eldred, NY 12732

Dear Planning Board Members,

Last Wednesday, September 28, I attended your monthly meeting at the Eldred High School. On the agenda was the a public hearing for Application #5-2022 Camp FIMFO (Kittatinny) Site Plan Approval.

I was thrilled to see so many people from the Town of Highland and neighboring towns show up. The application under review is significant and calls for those in the community to be heard. Thank you for providing this forum and enabling so many to be able to participate in this process.

I was surprised to see so much opposition given the number of times the Planning Board has met with FIMFO. I was surprised at how many questions — which seem relatively straight-forward — have not been answered. And if so, then clearly not to the satisfaction of the community.

I was particularly alarmed by the comments made about the proposed septic system and use of a leach field. Travis Steimoe, who raised this concern and is a waste water and water treatment expert, called that system “outdated” and implored the Planning Board to execute an independent environmental impact study. That request is not only reasonable, but essential to identify any issues (or not). Of course, he was not the only one that called for this independent environmental impact study. There were many, many others.

There were also numerous comments about the proposed well for FIMFO, its depth and the subsequent impact on neighboring wells. Given the increasing draughts that we are facing, it is fair to assume that during periods of limited rain, the FIMFO well and surrounding wells will be impacted.

Another issue: the lack of available staff for the businesses that exist *today* in the area. Nearly every small business owner with whom I speak is short-staffed. There is simply more work than those willing and able to do it. If FIMFO were to go forward, what additional pressure would that put on the already limited pool of available staff. Will the salaries and hourly wages of FIMFO employees be comparable with other local businesses? Will they bring staff in from elsewhere? If so, where will they live? Will they be able to pay the cost of local Airbnbs? Or is FIMFO providing housing for their 89 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees?

The comments that struck me the most though were related to the culture of the town and the broader Scenic Delaware River Valley. I have lived here for more than 18 years. We bought our home off of Route 97 — about halfway between Barryville and Narrowsburg — because of the culture; the ability to get “off the grid” a bit and enjoy the wondrous natural habitat of the Delaware River and surrounding areas. How will this proposed resort not negatively impact our culture? How will it not forever change the make up of this small community?

We have been delighted to see more people show interest in this area, develop new, small businesses and refurbish numerous local buildings. You have to look no further than the Barryville Farmer's Market, Barryville General, Corner Piazza, Monteleone Gardens and Stickett Inn to see this. New development has brought a vibrancy to the community, not to mention tax revenue.

FIMFO is categorically not a small business. They do not seem to care about our community or its small town culture. Why else would they seek tax abatements? How does not paying local taxes buoy a town like Highland? What else has FIMFO proposed to do beyond the development of the resort to benefit the community?

You have a tremendous responsibility. A responsibility to represent the wishes of the town and its community. If we were to have taken a vote on the proposed FIMFO site plan last Wednesday, I am certain it would have failed. There are simply too many questions. Too much lack of transparency. Too much work to be done.

Finally, I have pasted several customer reviews of Camp FIMFO's other resorts in Waco and Texas Hill Country from TripAdvisor. A few comments are red flags and potentially what this community would face should this resort be permitted to build.

I, as so many others have done before me, implore you to do the appropriate due diligence, share the findings transparently with the community and listen to their wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Doug Ray
Lackawaxen Road
Narrowsburg, NY

Select Customer Reviews from Trip Advisor

RV Park that is not RV Friendly (Fimfo Waco)

"This might be a great place in a couple of years, if it's ever finished. It had a nice water park--that will be **way too small to handle all the guests the park could eventually accommodate**--but it ends there. The many **RV sites definitely not designed by anyone with RV knowledge**. Concrete aprons way too narrow for large tow vehicles or big rigs. Sites are overgrown with weeds 2' tall and engulfed in mud, because sprinklers run every night for some reason. The site number signs are tiny, and many covered up by the weeds. The first night we were there, the high weeds around the sprinkler head dispersed the sprinkler spray and soaked everything we had left outside. There were fire ant beds everywhere, which made hooking up utilities a hazard. One "red carpet" site had a log with a huge bee's nest. The high weeds impeded the use of our sewer hose; the rack couldn't stand up and kept falling over, which would disconnect the hose from the hookup, which way too tall. **The sewer hookup was misplaced**, our 20' double hose barely reached it. There is a pond surrounded by dead and dying cypress trees. Since we had a large group, I volunteered to take a shower at the bathhouse. It was a very nice building, but no hot water and no hooks, save one small one back of door, to hang clothes and towels. Forgot about trying to use the restroom as it appeared **toilets didn't flush and several were close to overflowing**. Once you get away from the nice water park, everything is barely maintained. There didn't appear to be anyone in charge with whom to lodge complaints. It appears the facility was opened early to get business from the water park, and everything else lagging behind. Still lots of construction going on with pre-fab cabins. We plan to travel to the Waco area often, but we will not pay the exorbitant prices to stay here again."

Horrible RV spaces and maintenance (Fimfo Waco)

"Absolutely the worst RV spaces ever, way too narrow for larger RVs. **Concrete pads were dirty, utilities were positioned wrong**. Grass not mowed and over irrigated and muddy. Also was infested with fire ants and was attacked when hooking up utilities. Got mud all over my shoes. Paid over \$150 a night for a horrible camping experience. **The design of the RV site was apparently done by someone who has no idea about RVs**. I've Been RVing for over 35 years and this was a nightmare. Kids park is nice RV part terrible."

QA team/management should have failed the rough end bad engineering/design on pull thru (Waco)

“There are two main concerns I have with this new park in Waco. The first being **the location of the electric/water/dump**. They are all centered in the pull through lots which is very inconvenient when most connections on travel trailers are in the rear. I had to purchase an extension to reach sewer. Another major issue is the water line are too high above the ground and it ruptured the first time I connected. After I had setup my TT I had to relocate again. Over the weekend the plumber came out and he and I agreed that there is bound to be major issues with the way the water lines were installed and the connections being centered are going to be an issue. While I was there **another water line ruptured** for another family with the same issue however this was by the main water shut off valve. These things to be addressed immediately. Price is way to high when the park is not fully open yet. Should have waited until everything is ready to go. **There is a lot of issues I see in the near future.**”

Kinks Galore (Texas Hill Country)

“I can honestly they have several kinks to work out...I spent a lot on the cabin & golf cart for my family, some fell ill & didn't get to come, called several times to ask about options but basically got the run around so 4 of us made the most of it, cabin 146 is the worst location, **smelt of sewer**, couldn't enjoy the porch, rained & had a window pouring water in, they **definitely have too many campsites for the amenities, the pool was jam packed & smelt of sewage** by the bar, **lack of staff was a huge issue**, took 30-45 minutes to get food or drinks! I just opened my bank statement & in shock, the bar opens a tab & then says would you like to leave a tip 15, 20, 25% without giving you the total so just total sticker shock when you open your bank app, we are not big drinkers maybe 2-3 a day! I would love to come back next year in hopes the kinks are worked out since the concept is wonderful & the place is beautiful! I just spent way to much for what we got this time”

Nothing but Kids running this place (Texas Hill Country)

“I do not even know where to begin. Upon check-in, **I felt we were at a daycare with the amount of children working there**. It seemed to be **complete mayhem** with nobody knowing what they're doing. After finally finding our spot, we made our way to the pool bar where more children were working... Overall, our stay was Just okay. It would be nice to have a staff that knew what they were doing. No one here seems to know what is up. **Lack of management, poor management**, whatever it may be, this place shows how bad it is. **They need more employees** (smart adults) leading the way. People who know what they're talking about, how to talk to people, and how to direct people in the right direction. This campground has a lot to work out. We will not be back until adults are actually hired.”



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October 24, 2022

Norman Sutherland, Chair
Planning Board, Town of Highland
4 Proctor Road
Eldred, New York 12732

RE: CAMP FIMFO / KITTATINNY

Dear Chairman Sutherland:

As a lifelong Sullivan County resident, business owner with 120 local employees, a father of three – I fully support the efforts of Northgate in their redevelopment of the Kittatinny Campgrounds as “Camp Fimfo Catskills” in Barryville, New York.

I’ve personally stayed at Northgate’s Jellystone Campground both before and after they purchased & redeveloped this property in Gardiner, New York. The change was night and day, it was transformed into an amazing facility of the highest quality.

Kittatinny has been a tourist destination for over 75 years, this would simply improve the property to new levels.

“Campers” today demand different amenities which Northgate is in tune with. Long gone are days where campers pitch a tent, sit at the picnic table and eat hot dogs. Consumers demand better amenities & features, more activities, demand cleaner & better run facilities. I see this as not only a huge improvement, but also a factor to remain competitive in today’s market of attracting consumers. From the plans presented and seeing the portfolio of properties across the USA as well as personally stayed at one of their properties – this would be great for the area. The property is ideally located on NYS 97 which has been handling weekend tourist travel for decades, a huge economic boost to not only the Delaware River Valley, but for the entire area.

I urge the Board to support this amazing development plan! Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael Taylor, owner

Norman Sutherland, Chairman
Town of Highland Planning Board
Town Hall
4 Proctor Road
Eldred, NY 12732

Dear Mr. Sutherland,

My name is Karen Fisher. I am a 41-year resident of Sullivan County living in Kenoza Lake in the Town of Delaware. I make a living as the owner of FisherMears Associates, a marketing communications company here in the Sullivan Catskills. Chief among my clients is the county's tourism promotion agency — the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association. I am also the board chair of the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development.

From a business and economic development perspective, I am in full support of Northgate Resorts' Camp Fimfo— first, because the proposed \$40 million upgrade plan will breathe new life into the existing camp property with more family-friendly amenities. Secondly, because as with any well-visioned, well-planned tourism focused project— it will increase the tax base and help lift the burden on those of us who live here year-round. It will create jobs. And it will bring visitors who will spend their disposable income in the ever-growing Barryville area and beyond. Ultimately, over time it helps make our Sullivan Catskills a better place to live.

What excites me most about the plan though is something that's a little more intangible.

When I relocated here in 1981, I cried for the first seven months I lived here. I was unemployed, living in a one-bedroom garden apartment, and there was a whole lot of not-much-to-do. When the weekends rolled around, my husband and I would pack up and head to Boston, or the Jersey shore, Connecticut, Vermont, or Maine. Anywhere but here.

Today, I love where I live thanks to tourism's resurgence. It's my biggest hope that I'll invite out-of-town friends and family to come stay at Camp Fimfo and enjoy the legendary hospitality this county is so famous for and make it so that I *never* want to leave.

Sincerely,

Karen Fisher
karen@fishermears.com

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to express my opposition for the massive FIMFO project that is being proposed for our town.

Visitors have come to our area for decades to enjoy nature, not to engage in an artificial experience. A water slide on the river will be a blight on the landscape. No matter how it is dressed up, a water slide is a tall, ugly structure. Moreover, there will be river flooding, which will pour thousands of gallons of chemically treated water into the Delaware, the most pristine major river in the East.

I have never perceived a problem with tourists staying in tents, and I live on Woods Rd., very close to the site of FIMFO. Why not have a place for city dwellers to stay in our area cheaply? Having a permanent RV park for "upscale" campers is ridiculous. Tents are fine, and they are taken away when the campers leave.

Finally, I worry about the effect of all of this construction and added noise on our wildlife. We have a nesting pair of bald eagles very near to the FIMFO site. They will not stay.

If this camp is approved, then I will have no choice but to sell my home and relocate to a more peaceful area.

Please use common sense, forget about greed, and do not allow this project to go through.

Sincerely,
Peter Andrew McTiernan



October 26, 2022

Norman Sutherland
Town of Highland Planning Board

Dear Mr. Sutherland

On behalf of the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, I want to articulate that we strongly support Northgate Resort's proposal for its redevelopment of the Kittatinny Campgrounds. This project will create a new family resort complex (FIMFO) that will improve existing campground sites, add enhancing features, and contribute to the local economy.

We believe that FIMFO is a project that will address the current tourism trends post COVID, as well as mitigating many of the local community's environmental concerns. Travelers are seeking more time with their family while wanting to experience outdoor adventure and building on their quality of life, while putting little effort into planning. The newer generations are more mindful of the environment and want to leave a smaller carbon footprint when they travel. Northgate has been able to address all these demands into one project. They will:

1. Lower the occupancy rate by 17.34%. This will eliminate waste and reduce the carbon footprint of the current site.
2. Establish a security team to enforce noise and behavior ordinances.
3. Responsibly build features to build the park experience.
4. Limit traffic overflow by actively promoting midweek travel, which will add to the overall economic stability of the county.

According to the latest economic figures for the Sullivan Catskills, visitor spending in our county amounted to over \$709 million, producing over \$84,000 in taxes. This allows each household to see a savings of \$2,970 that would otherwise be paid by property owners to maintain current government services. It is crucial now more than ever that tourism destinations continue to create new experiences for the traveler, because competition to gain visitor interest is fierce. Therefore, Sullivan Catskills needs projects like the FIMFO, as this type of development will create a smart and responsible precedent for future developers to follow; improve the quality of life for residents; bring more jobs to the region; gauge new traveler interest, and in return bring new money to our local businesses.

For all these reasons, the SCVA respectfully asks that the Northgate Resort project be given consideration to continue with its plans to energize the River Community, Town of Highland, and the Sullivan Catskills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roberta Byron-Lockwood".

Roberta Byron-Lockwood
CEO



Dear Planning Board,

I do not want a water park in our area and community.

Traffic, noise, all human activities, waste, and sewage will pollute our pristine environment where the air and water are clean and the ecosystem diversity is intact.

It is our duty to keep the Delaware River environment protected and supported for our children and the next generations to come.

Thank you.

Best,

Pam Sudbanthad
Highland Lake, NY

10/22/2022

This letter is in response to the proposed development of the resort on Route 97 in Barryville, NY.

In the late 1800's, my Great, Great Grandfather saw the beauty and potential of this area and settled on Corkscrew Road. At that time, farming, logging and boarding houses were the major attractions to this rural area. The Erie Railroad and a few cars were the major modes of transportation. Yes, times have changed and for the most part there has been positive advancements while still maintaining the beauty of the river valley. As a 5th generation-80 year old native, I have witnessed many occurrences and know quite a bit about the history of the area.

People have been referring to the past storms and floods but little has been said about the 1955 storm where all the towns in the river valley as well as towns along the Lackawaxen River were evacuated as the threat of a possible breach in the Wallenpaupack Dam infrastructure. During that time, many of the portions of Route 97 were under water or had rock and landslides thus making the highway totally closed. The water from the flooding created a temporary lake in the area where the paint ball area is located (between the brook and up to current entrance to the campground) at the current Kittatinny location. Since that time, whenever there has been a bad storm, hurricane, or tornado, there has been episodes of serious problems.

Now the Town is looking at this proposal for FIMFO; thus creating a major adjustment to the landscape and mountainside. The issues such as sewerage is a huge issue as they are saying they will have a leech field—where is this leeching to ? river or brook? Draining that much water for the water slide and general usage will totally drain the ecosystem in the area. Cutting into the mountainside to develop this resort will be disastrous, as we have seen from Mother Nature showing its impact!! Others have expressed their concerns, so I will not enumerate any further. This whole project is NOT appropriate for this area as pointed out by numerous other statements and comments that has been expressed. **VOTE NO** or this beautiful River Valley will be destroyed forever.

Linda Guenther Anderson

Everything about Fimfo is what so many of us up here loathe. We live here to avoid the nature busting, profit pushing, community crushing entity who will lie to us and carry suitcases filled with cash to bribe their way into using our beautiful place on this little blue planet to fatten their disgusting wallets.

I am leaving all the cogent, fact-filled arguments to the many, many skilled and brilliant members of the community living around both sides of the Delaware.

Patricia Lee Stotter

Ms. McGill:

I am a long-time resident of York Lake Shores in Barryville and am adamantly opposed to the FIMFO development that is currently being discussed for the area.

The reason I bought property in the Town of Highland was for the peace and quiet. This massive development would destroy that.

Please do NOT approve this horrible project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gregg and Jill Willinger

Hi Monica,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm a property owner in Highland and am adamantly opposed to Camp FIMFO. I fear that this project will drastically change the surrounding area and result in increased traffic and pollution. Thanks for your consideration and I hope our community can at least limit the scope of this project.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Hunt

September 29, 2022

The Highland Planning Board
Town Hall
4 Proctor Road
Eldred, NY 12732

Re: Camp FIMFO

Dear Members of the Board:

When my husband and I first came up to this area 13 years ago, he remarked with great wonder in his voice, "This is the New York I remember!" That sealed it and we began the purchase of a home in Lumberland that very day. The area still brims with old-fashioned charm and great natural beauty. Why would we want to swap views of and access to the woods and the river along a scenic byway for a garish plastic water park and a ghetto of park recreation vehicles built on a flood plain. Climate change is here and when the Delaware inevitably floods, locals will also pay a price for the destruction of this unabashed corporate takeover.

The fact that Northgate has the overconfidence to include a huge tax abasement for their profit -making venture while laying many potential costs on the local community is outrageous. So many more important objections (the aquifers, sewage, congestion among them) were expressed by members of our community at the Planning Board meeting last night to deny this massive overdevelopment of the Highland community and surrounding towns. I believe that preserving the essence of the area that we love should also be taken into serious consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Handler

Ms. McGill:

As a resident of York Lake Shores in Barryville I am opposed to the FIMFO development being discussed. This is now a peaceful rural area on the banks of a beautiful river and scenic highway. This massive development would destroy that.

Please do NOT approve this horrible project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Colangelo

Dear Chairman Sutherland and Planning Board Members:

I am writing this communication in order to voice my concerns regarding the Application before you filed by North Gate Resorts.

First, I urge the Board to retain Independent Experts for the purpose of responding to "each and every one" of the Reports submitted by North Gate. So far, their Environmental, Water and Sewage Disposal Reports appear to be of great concern to most citizens. The Board must tread very carefully here because there will be no going back. I humbly offer my experience from serving on the Planning Board in the City of Clifton, NJ for fifteen years (seven as Chairman). That Board saw many large projects come before it, many times with organized opposition. We often found the Reports and Testimony of Experts to be manipulated in order to reflect one position or the opposite. It was truly amazing and just as confusing sometimes! This is why I believe the Board should retain experienced independent experts to assist with your decision-making. Hopefully they can provide you with unbiased information. You know that old saying: "believe none of what you hear and only half of what you see".

Section 190-25 of the Town of Highland Ordinances provides for "Campgrounds" and accessory uses therein. I don't see there or anywhere else in the Town of Highland Ordinances/Regulations that provide for Water Parks, Mini Golf or Mountain Coasters. Is this a Campground or an Amusement Facility? Is a Use Variance required with this Application? It might be something to consider.

Sixteen new Septic systems are proposed. Does the size of the site and water table conditions provide for that to be implemented safely and satisfactorily? At your September Meeting, I heard a very credible citizen (purportedly with qualifications in this regard) state that there will be problems with these systems as well as with water disposal. Again, I beg you to be very careful and not rely on North Gate's Experts alone.

Is FIMFO planning on providing permanent RVs on-site for Guest use? If so, shouldn't those be designated as Trailers or Cabins?? As I see it, RVs enter the premises for a "Stay" at the Resort and then leave afterward. They're vehicles!

I've also heard about possible Phases II and III of this Development, which would be an egregious overuse of the property. The present application is very large perhaps too large. Has there been any disclosure by the Applicant about this? Would they agree to no future phases by way of stipulation? Please find out now.

Lastly (for now anyway) we all know that the ultimate treasure in our region is the beautiful resource known as the Delaware River, one of only five "free-flowing" Rivers remaining in the USA. Is North Gate here to enhance that resource or just to exploit it? Our duty now should be to protect it. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Pietkiewicz

To Whom This May Concern,

My name is Travis Steimle. I have been a resident of Lumberland and Highland for nearly my entire life. I graduated from the Eldred High School back in 2012 and have always had my eyes set on environmental work since the BP oil spill in 2010. Professional environmental work found me nearly a decade ago when I began working as a water treatment plant operator. I have had the opportunity to see and work at over 300 water and wastewater treatment facilities throughout New York since that time. I have first hand accounts on how these facilities can positively and negatively impact the local ecosystems. While the work to restore some of these deficient facilities is ongoing our team continues to turnover every stone to bring each facility back to modern standards. These experiences have exposed how little information the public is given about these systems. The same can be said about FIMFO.

FIMFO is proposing a 20,080 gallon per day septic system that will span across 6 individual tanks and leach fields. A traditional residential system can see up to 280 gallons of wastewater per day for a family of four. FIMFO stood before the Town and stated that they were pursuing a more environmentally friendly campground. Such a statement is not based in fact with their proposed system. Conventional septic systems rely on gravity to separate solid waste from liquid waste. The remaining liquid waste then is dispersed across acres of leach fields. These leach fields allow for waste to seep into the ground and ultimately into ground and surface water sources.

Human wastewater contains a plethora of contaminants that are dangerous to wildlife and the local communities. A septic system is only capable of capturing a fraction of these contaminants. Human waste has a few key metrics that are taken into consideration when designing and implementing a wastewater treatment system. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Ammonia, Phosphorus, and Nitrate are just a few that I will touch on. The allowed discharge concentrations of each of these contaminants depend on their proximity to sensitive water bodies. The Delaware River may be one of the most sensitive in the state of New York. So much so New York in partnership with Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey created the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to aid the state regulatory agencies in protecting the river corridor from pollutants.

BOD, what is it and why is it important. BOD is a measurement to determine the amount of oxygen that microorganisms consume as they break down organic matter. The higher the BOD value the more oxygen the microorganisms consume. I, like many others, did not understand the impacts that oxygen consumption from wastewater would have on a receiving water body. Oxygen is as vital to aquatic life as it is to you and me. In a septic system only approximately 60% of all BOD is captured. According to the New York State Department of Environmental Protection (NYSDEC) typical residential wastewater has a BOD concentration of 155- 286 milligrams per liter (mg/L). If we were to use the average of these values this means a septic system will have an estimated average discharge quantity of 88.2 mg/L of BOD. In comparison an advanced wastewater treatment system has a limitation of just 5 mg/L in the Delaware River basin.

TSS is the gold standard measurement in determining the concentration of solids in suspension. Once again, according to the NYSDEC typical residential wastewater has a TSS concentration of 155- 330 mg/L. While relying on gravity alone a septic system of this scale will be incapable of consistently and reliably removing TSS concentrations effectively. According to the Department of Health in the State of Washington discharge concentrations of TSS in a conventional septic system range between 40- 140 mg/L. A modern, advanced wastewater system in the Delaware River Basin limits discharge TSS concentrations to 10 mg/L.

1 Grove Street, Suite 200
Pittsford, New York 14534

Consumer Websites:
campnewyork.com
nycabinrentals.com



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Local: (585) 586-4360
Fax: (585) 586-4368

Corporate Website:
campcony.com

Memorandum of Support – Kittatiny/Camp Fimfo

Upon reviewing the Kittatiny / Camp Fimfo proposal The Campground Owners of NY supports the initiative and recommends that the proposed project move forward. The history of this property has evolved throughout time and generations have enjoyed the great outdoors and the location making family memories, rafting on the river, camping, and spending time with friends and family. I am sure that with the length of service the business has repeat customers from several generations wanting to pass the experiences on to the next generation.

The proposed improvements that are included in the plan are being carefully sequenced in order to enhance the beauty of the location. The Owners of the property are first class operators and have rave reviews from not only their customers but local officials, tourism professionals, and are highly respected within the outdoor hospitality industry nationwide. The improvements that are contained in the plan are nothing new to the campground and RV park industry. Many campgrounds in all parts of the state have already implemented or are planning on adding many of the amenities that are contained within the proposal.

Some facts and figures that I would like to present:

Campground Owners of NY members surveyed when metering potable water usage at campgrounds is aggregated at 15-18 gallons per day per campsite. This includes usage of bathroom buildings, laundry facilities, etc. The potable water requirement pursuant to NYS doh health code 7-3 is 50 gallons per day per campsite that must be available. While the DEC requires septic system to handle 100 gallons per day. Based on our surveys of members the 50 gallons of potable and the 100 gallons of septic are far in excess of actual surveyed usage. The fact that systems can provide and handle the requirements mean a safe environment, while providing required resources far in excess of actual use.

Camping is defined as: an outdoor activity involving overnight stays away from home, either without shelter or using basic shelter such as a tent, a recreational vehicle, or cabin. Typically, participants leave areas to spend time outdoors in more natural ones in pursuit of activities providing them enjoyment or an educational experience. The night (or more) spend outdoors distinguishes camping from day-tripping, picnicking, and other similarly short-term recreational activities.

Mission:

Campground Owners of New York (CONY) is dedicated to the promotion, growth, improvement and development of independently owned campgrounds in New York State.



1 Grove Street, Suite 200
Pittsford, New York 14534

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The RV'ing industry has a positive economic impact on New York state of 4 billion annually. (Source RV's move America RVIA June 2022)

- 742 million from RV Manufacturers and Suppliers
- 1 billion in RV Sales and Services
- 2 billion in RV Campgrounds and Travel

The impact supports:

- 720 businesses
- 21,079 jobs in New York
- 2 billion in Wages
- 553 million in taxes paid
- 14,298 RVs shipped with a retail value of 572 million.

Information gleaned from the North American Camping Report – 2022

- In 2021, camping accounted for 40% of all leisure trips taken.
- 93.8 million active camper households in the US in 2021
- 56.9 million households who camped at least once in 2021
- 9.1 million first time camper households in 2021
- In 2021, 37% of households report an income of \$100,000 or more.
- Across all demographics, most campers indicate they spend camping trips with their spouse or significant other 64%. Nearly half (48%) take their children camping

According to data from Tourism Economics tourism in the Catskills region is a 1.6-billion-dollar industry, supporting 19,938 jobs. Were it not for tourism-generated state and local taxes, the average household in Sullivan County would have to pay an additional \$2,407 to maintain the same level of government services.

If you should any questions about the information provided of if I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Donald G. Bennett Jr.
President/CEO

Mission:

Campground Owners of New York (CONY) is dedicated to the promotion, growth, improvement and development of independently owned campgrounds in New York State.

