



Town of New Paltz, New York

Neil Bettez, Town Supervisor

PO Box 550 • 52 Clearwater Rd. • New Paltz, NY 12561

Phone: 845/255.0604 • TTY: 800/622.1220 • Fax: 845/255.4084

www.townofnewpaltz.org

July 20, 2018

Meghan Taylor, Regional Director
Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council
33 Airport Center Drive - #201
New Windsor, NY 12553

Dear Ms. Taylor:

The Town Board of the Town of New Paltz wholeheartedly supports Turk Hospitality Group's Consolidated Funding Application to construct The Wildberry Lodge & Spa: a themed hotel with spa and wellness, event and catering facilities, located on 57 acres of vacant land along Route 299 in the Town of New Paltz. This \$42 million project is expected to generate more than 150 full-time equivalent (FTE) construction jobs before opening in 2021, and 145 FTE jobs within its first two years of operation. The Wildberry Lodge & Spa will be the only tourism venue of its kind in the Hudson River Valley, and will generate numerous, lasting economic benefits within the region.

The Wildberry Lodge & Spa will include an independent boutique hotel with 140 guest rooms, two event and catering centers with a combined capacity of 500+ attendees, a standalone spa and wellness center with an indoor/outdoor pool, two public restaurants, a demonstration kitchen, a 500-seat open-air amphitheater, and numerous outdoor amenities including a nature trail, botanical and sculpture gardens, treehouse canopy, zip lines, adventure playground, ice skating rink, and a bird watching sanctuary. It will also feature one of the largest butterfly conservatories in North America, a premier destination for educational field trips and private events.

In addition to its significant contribution to local employment and taxes, The Wildberry Lodge & Spa will offer numerous tangible and lasting public benefits, including:

- Remediation of contaminated land through the NYS Brownfields remediation program;
- Internships and jobs for SUNY New Paltz students;
- Job training and employment for veterans;
- Contracts with local businesses to provide services for The Wildberry Lodge & Spa's guests;
- Shuttle service from The Wildberry Lodge & Spa to local shopping, dining, and recreational venues; and
- Public enjoyment of The Wildberry Lodge & Spa facilities on a day-use basis.

The Wildberry Lodge & Spa is being developed by Turk Hospitality Group owners Steven and Shelley Turk, who have grown their existing businesses—Rocking Horse Ranch Resort in Highland, NY and SplashDown Beach Water Park in Fishkill, NY—into thriving recreational and tourism market leaders within the region. We embrace their vision to create this world-class resort, resulting in hundreds of new jobs: a project good for New Paltz, good for Ulster County and good for the entire Hudson Valley region.

Sincerely,

Neil Bettez
Supervisor