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Glenn D. Hoagland

July 16, 2012

Susan Zimet, Supervisor  
Town of New Paltz  
Town Hall  
1 Veteran's Drive  
P.O. Box 550  
New Paltz, NY 12561

### RE: Resolution by Town of New Paltz Supporting Mohonk Preserve Grant Funding Application to New York State

Dear Susan:

I am pleased to provide this letter of intent requested by the Town in connection with its approval on July 12, 2012 of the resolution supporting the above-mentioned grant request to the State.

For nearly 50 years since its founding in 1963, the Preserve has evolved as a leading regional non-profit charitable organization with a mission to protect the Shawangunk Mountains by inspiring people to care for, enjoy and explore the natural world. We work with community citizens, neighbors, and multiple public and non-governmental partners at the nexus of nature, culture, and economy, striving to protect and maintain a nationally treasured landscape while attempting to sustain diverse programs and services to the public in land stewardship, conservation, ecosystem research, and environmental education.

The Preserve currently protects approximately 1,818 acres of high priority conservation land in the Town of New Paltz, and is supported by over 1,000 member households within the Town. At present, we are planning to acquire another 534 acres in New Paltz currently owned by the Open Space Institute that is the subject of the proposed grant to NY State. These lands include the Testimonial Gateway tract, Humpo Marsh area and Kleinekill Farm, but do not include Pine Farm or Brook Farm which will continue in Open Space Conservancy ownership for the immediate future. This acquisition is contingent on fundraising both for the land purchase, and to sufficiently absorb and sustain the costs of conserving these lands in the long-term. In the near-term we will be the interim manager, lessee, and contract vendee of these lands, and we are hopeful to be the owner within three years.

The Preserve is pleased to confirm its commitment, as stated in the Town Board meeting on July 11, 2012 and as reflected throughout the *Land Asset Management Plan for the Mohonk Preserve Foothills* document, to participate with the Town and other stakeholders in the planning process for these lands and to create an optimal means of providing responsible use, and access management, and to ensure consistency with the Town's Open Space Plan, Farmland Preservation Plan and general zoning laws.

Moreover, we agree to meet with the Town on a mutually agreeable schedule to work collaboratively addressing issues of mutual concern and to explore collaborative grant ideas. As you know, we routinely make voluntary community benefit payments in each of the five towns in which the Preserve is situated. However, we are interested in exploring ways that creatively leverage, in cooperation with New Paltz, the multiple community values and economic benefits that derive from the Preserve's work to manage non-governmental identified as a high conservation priority safeguarded and appropriately accessible to the public.

We look forward to continuing this mutual collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn D. Hoagland", written over the printed name and title.

Glenn D. Hoagland  
Executive Director