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Date: Mar 10, 2015

To: Tim Miller Associates, Inc., 10 North Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

From: Edward Goodell, Executive Director, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

Re: Proposal for Kiryas Joel to annex portion of Monroe, NY

In cooperation with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Orange County Parks, and various municipalities, the Trail Conference is the designated steward of both the Long Path and the Highlands Trail. Established in the 1960s, the Long Path is a 355-mile trail that starts at the George Washington Bridge and ends near Albany, NY (see <http://www.nynjtc.org/region/long-path>). The Highlands Trail traverses the highlands of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut (see <http://www.nynjtc.org/region/highlands-trail-region>).

Both of these trails are co-aligned for a road walk on Seven Springs Road in the Town of Monroe between Gonzaga County Park to the northeast and Orange & Rockland lands just east of Route 17. This half-mile route along Seven Springs Road is within the area of Monroe proposed for annexation by the Village of Kiryas Joel. We are very concerned, that should it be annexed, public access along this road will be curtailed. There is no available alternate route.

On behalf of the volunteers who have labored over creating a public asset, we urge you to:

1. Stipulate the Trail Conference as an interested party.
2. Inform us what mitigation measures have been considered to protect trail-users from increased traffic on this road, and
3. What measures have been considered to protect the ambience and enjoyment of the trail notably since hikers will be walking directly from the park into a potentially densely-developed area if the annexation is successful.
4. In consultation with the DEC, OPRHP and the Trail Conference, set aside undeveloped parkland in perpetuity to allow safe passage along these two long-distance trails.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward K. Goodell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Edward K. Goodell
Executive Director

C. Martin Brand, Director NYSDEC Region 3
Jim Hall, Director PIPC
Dave Church, Orange Co. Planning Dept.
Monroe Town Board
Jakob Franke, Long Path Committee
Andy Garrison, Long Path Committee