

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 82 OF 2011

**Resolution introduced by Supervisors Merlino, Kenny, Belden, Strainer, Goodspeed, McCoy and Conover**

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING IN THE 2011 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET FOR THE OFFICIAL I LOVE NEW YORK GATEWAY INFORMATION CENTER AT BEEKMANTOWN FOR THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, tourism is a vital component of the Adirondack Region economy, providing year round employment, and State and County sales tax revenue, and

WHEREAS, visitors from the United States, Canada and from around the world need travel information about New York State and the Adirondack Region, and

WHEREAS, in 1991, New York State acknowledged the need for an information center to address the needs of the traveling public and constructed an official I Love New York Gateway Information Center on I-87 South in Beekmantown, and has funded the operation of the Center at the same rate since 1991, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has contracted with the Adirondack Regional Tourism Council to operate the Center since the Center opened in 1991, and

WHEREAS, the Center is open seven (7) days a week and welcomes over 100,0000 visitors on an annual basis who are directed by the Center's staff to Plattsburgh, Lake Placid, Lake George, Adirondack destinations and attractions, Albany, and New York City, and

WHEREAS, the Center also serves as the administrative office of the Adirondack Regional Tourism Council, and the Center's staff answers the phone seven (7) days a week to field questions about vacationing in the Adirondack Region, and annually mails out over 40,000 region-wide information packets in response to the Adirondack Regional Tourism Council marketing campaigns, and

WHEREAS, the closing of the Center as a result of the elimination of funding for the Center in the Governor's 2011 budget would cause hardship to the traveling public to New York State and the Adirondack Region, and would result in the loss of economic activity and subsequent decrease in sales tax and occupancy tax collections in New York State and the Adirondack Region, and

WHEREAS, New York State and the Adirondack Region depend on tourism as a key driver of the State and Local economy, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Warren County join the counties of the Adirondack Region by strongly supporting the continued operation of the official I Love New York Gateway Information Center in Beekmantown so that the traveling public can continue to learn about destinations in New York State and the Adirondack Region, and so that the Adirondack Regional Tourism Council can continue its mission of directing visitors to the Adirondack Region, resulting in continued employment in the tourism economy and the continued collection of sales and occupancy taxes, and be it further

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RESOLVED, Warren County respectfully request the Governor to reinstate funding in the 2011 budget for the operation of the official I Love New York Gateway Information Center in Beekmantown at the funding level of \$150,000 on an annual basis, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to the New York State Association of Counties; Governor Andrew Cuomo; Senator Charles E. Schumer; Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand; Congressman Chris Gibson; Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little; and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward.