**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED**

**THOMPSON EDUCATION CENTER (F/K/A CHINA CITY)**

**IN THE TOWN OF THOMPSON, TOWN OF FALLSBURG AND**

**ADJACENT TO THE TOWN OF MAMAKATING**

WHEREAS, in order to preserve the natural environment of the Town of Mamakating and for the general health, safety and welfare of the Town and Sullivan County residents and the local economy and to preserve and protect the scenic and other natural resources of the Town of Mamakating and Sullivan County, the Town of Mamakating Town Board opposes the proposed Thompson Education Center (referred to as TEC) on 575 acres in the Town of Thompson;

WHEREAS, TEC has plans for 5+ million square feet of development on a 568-acre parcel in Thompson (SBL 26.-1-6)in the Town ofThompson’s RR-2 District  consisting of 5,386,017± square feet of development plus 4,000 parking spaces on 568 acres constrained by 220± acres of DEC wetlands and buffers, with plans to discharge 650,000 gallons per day of wastewater; and a proposed Security/ Caretaker Facility on an adjacent 4.93-acre Renner Road lot in the Town of Fallsburg’s REC-1 District (SBL 65.-1-11.59) which is adjacent to the Town of Mamakating;

WHEREAS, in Phase 1, applicant intends to site a Sewage Treatment Plant in Thompson at the Thompson/Mamakating line at the edge of the Harlen Swamp.  The EAF estimates 650,000 gallons per day of water usage.  Additionally, the EAF states that the Sewage Treatment Plant would discharge effluent directly into WO-54 (Harlen Swamp Wetland Complex) that flows into a large unnamed pond on New Road, to Primrose Brook (which combines with South Brook to become Gumaer Brook), then to the 3,000 acre Basher Kill Wetland System / Wildlife Management Area, and onto the Neversink and the Delaware River Basin;

WHEREAS, Harlen Swamp is recognized by the New York State Open Space Plan as a Priority Conservation Project, which is worthy of preservation and acquisition by the State;

WHEREAS, the Basher Kill Wetland System/Wildlife Management Area, an irreplaceable natural resource in the Town of Mamakating, is recognized by the New York State Open Space Plan as a Regional Priority Conservation Project in NYS DEC Region 3;

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2017 at a meeting of the Town of Thompson Planning Board, TEC representatives announced plans for a very large two-story/three-story interconnecting winged structure of unspecified square footage with an oversized septic tank (labeled “Security Facility” on Pietrzak and Pfau’s 3/30 Overall Site Plan Map) proposed for the 4.93 acre REC-1 lot on Renner Road (s/b/l 65.1-11.59) in the Town of Fallsburg that leads into the proposed project in the Town of Thompson, and which should be considered a segmented SEQRA Review process;

WHEREAS, Wild Turnpike is a narrow, rural residential road that is partly within the Town of Mamakating;

WHEREAS, NYSDEC 10-Year 2006 validation of Wetland Buffers expired on 12/29/16;

WHERAS, the capacity for adequate water to supply a project of this size has yet to be established.   The 3 test wells TEC was permitted to recently drill produced the following capacity...Well #1 - 30 to70 gpm; Well #2 - 115 gpm; Well #3 - 5 gpm, grossly inadequate for the proposed development;

WHEREAS, the test wells were performed after a very wet winter and spring, which took the County of Sullivan and much of the Hudson Valley out of official drought status;

WHEREAS, the Town of Thompson has not yet authorized issuance of 5 additional drilling permits that TEC has applied for at the edge of WO-54, Harlen Swamp 100 foot buffers, and that any well drilling in and around WO-54 (Harlen Swamp), a portion of which is in the Town of Mamakating Mountain Greenbelt Zone, could do irreparable damage to the wetlands and natural environment in our Municipality;

WHEREAS, Sullivan County is currently ranked 61st out of 62 New York State counties with regard to the overall health of its residents;

WHEREAS, Sullivan County is reported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA) Environmental Justice Screening tool (EJscreen) to have a population close to 75 percent that is low income (less than two times the national poverty level), close to 60 percent over the age of 64, close to 50 percent below the age of 5 years old, and 50 percent minority population, all of which combined are indicators of an environmental justice, sensitive and disadvantaged community (percentages based on 2008-2012 U.S. Census Data);

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA defines environmental justice to mean that all people, regardless of race, color, origin, or income, receive fair treatment and equal environmental protection and have the opportunity for meaningful involvement in decisions that will affect the environment and/or health of their community; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts on the environment, community character and quality of life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Mamakating Town Board expresses its opposition to the Thompson Education Center’s Proposed Education Community on 575 acres in the Town of Thompson, Town of Fallsburg and adjacent to the Town of Mamakating in Sullivan County, New York;

RESOLVED, that the Board urges a full Environmental Impact Statement and SEQRA be conducted by independent experts acceptable to , Sullivan County and the three towns impacted by this project (Towns of Thompson, Fallsburg and Mamakating);

RESOLVED, that the Town of Thompson and the Town of Fallsburg should not issue any building or land disturbance permits in either Town until the environmental impacts of the entire project at full build-out have been determined;

RESOLVED, The Town of Mamakating Town Board urges the Town of Thompson and the Town of Fallsburg not to issue any further permits for additional test well drilling until a new NYS DEC wetland validation has been submitted to replace the wetland validation that expired on December 29, 2016;

RESOLVED, that the Board urges the Town of Thompson to request the NYSDEC to conduct a new validation of Wetland Buffers prior to the issuance of any further permits;

RESOLVED, that the Board urges the Town of Thompson and Town of Fallsburg to inform the Town of Mamakating of any and all proceedings and actions regarding the TEC project;

RESOLVED, that the Town of Thompson work with local and county officials to address residents’ concerns about a project of this size;

RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Town Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to:

Town of Thompson Town Board County of Sullivan Legislature

Town of Thompson Planning Board 100 North Street

4052 Route 42 Monticello, New York 12701

Monticello, NY 12701

Town of Fallsburg Town Board NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Town of Fallsburg Planning Board Joseph Murray, Env. Analyst, Reg. 3

Fallsburg, NY 21 South Putt Corners Road

New Paltz, NY 12561

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor Hon. John Faso, US Congressman

State of New York 19th Congressional District

NYS Capitol Building 1616 Longworth HOB

Albany, New York 12224 Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Charles E, Schumer

United States Senate Hon. Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther

322 Hart Senate Bldg. 18 Anawana Lake Rd

Washington DC 20510 Monticello NY 12701

Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand Hon. John J Bonacic, New York Senator

United States Senate 42n Senatorial District

478 Russell Senate Office Bldg. Room 509, Legislative Office Building Washington DC 20510 Albany, NY 12247

Jill Weyer, Acting Commissioner

Division of Planning & Environmental Mgmt. Thompson Education Center

Sullivan County Government 198 Bridgeville Road

100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

Monticello, NY 12701

On motion by Councilperson Janet Lybolt, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Giraldi,

the Town Board adopted the foregoing resolution by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions on this Sixteenth day of May, 2017.

Supervisor William Herrmann

Councilperson Brenda Giraldi

Councilperson Janet Lybolt

Councilperson Christine Saward

Councilperson Matthew Taylor

This is to certify that I, Jean Dougherty certify that this is a true and exact copy of Resolution filed in the office of the Town of Mamakating Town Clerk.

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Jean M. Dougherty, Town Clerk