

TOWN OF GARDINER

P.O. Box 1
Gardiner, New York 12525-0001
845-255-9675

Town Hall Offices
133 Main Street

Town Meeting Hall
2340 Route 44/55

Jack Hayes
Supervisor

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk

February 26, 2003

Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

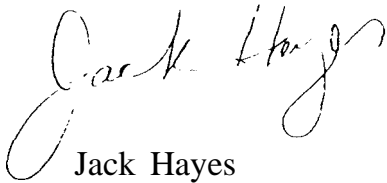
By Fax to the Kingston Office
845-331-7456

Dear Congressman Hinchey

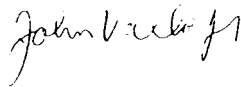
Thank you for attending the meeting held at the Wallkill High School on February 6, 2003 regarding the Awostring Reserve. Your remarks concerning the project echoed the feeling of many of the attendees. We are very concerned about any and all impacts this project may have on our Towns. We appreciate your recognizing the federal role in this matter. You have accurately identified the Shawangunk Range as an area, which encompasses three states; New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. This tri-state geography lends itself to a federal approach. As you so aptly pointed out our small Towns are ill equipped to process a development application of such magnitude and complexity. We commend your enthusiasm in volunteering to help us in our time of need. Your background in environmental matters makes you eminently qualified to provide leadership in protecting this national resource. We are sure you can cut through the bureaucratic red tape that so often creates delays in actually realizing some sort of relief. We would not know where to start in seeking federal assistance. The National Park Service? Fish and Wild Life Agency? The Environmental Protection Agency? It's all a federal maze to officials on the Town level. We are sure you can assist us in questions concerning individual property rights, identifying the actual area to be protected and drafting the regulating legislation needed to protect this magnificent mountain range.

Yom generous offer to help comes at a time when we are sure you have many significant national and international matters to deal with. We understand there are a number of other Congresspersons and Senators who will have to agree on the federal level. We will do our part to enlist the support of Town Supervisors and County officials in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania We look forward to meeting with you to discuss how to proceed. Again our sincere thanks for your insight and magnanimous support

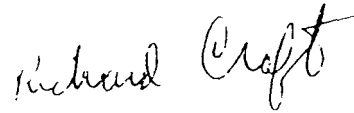
Respectfully yours,



Jack Hayes
Supervisor,
Town of Gardiner



John Valk
Supervisor,
Town of Shawangunk



Richard Craft
Supervisor,
Town of Wawarsing