

## **Sterling Forest Resorts Resolution:**

**Whereas**, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission was created to maintain and operate park land "for the use of the public and for the purpose of preserving the scenic beauty of the Palisades and other lands therein"; and

**Whereas**, under the Palisades Interstate Park Commission's Congressionally approved 1937 Interstate Compact, it was agreed to and pledged the "faithful co-operation in the future planning, improvement, development, maintenance, government and management of the park, holding in high trust for the benefit of the public the special blessings and natural advantages thereof"; and

**Whereas**, Sterling Forest State Park was acquired through a federal, state (New York and New Jersey) and private sector partnership at significant public cost of approximately \$70 million; and

**Whereas**, Sterling Forest State Park was acquired to protect its vast and unique natural resources with particular concern regarding the protection of water resources; and

**Whereas**, Sterling Forest State Park is classified as a Scenic Park with 95% designated Park Preserve Areas and Bird Conservation Areas; and

**Whereas**, Sterling Forest Resorts has proposed a Casino on private lands surrounded by Sterling Forest State Park in conjunction with construction of a proposed new interchange off the New York State Thruway (designated Exit 15B) connecting to Route 17A; and

**Whereas**, Sterling Forest Resort has requested support for approval by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission the use of park lands and/or access to a park road (Route 106) to facilitate the proposed New York State Thruway Exit 15B; and

**Whereas**, The Commission has carefully reviewed and considered the information provided by Sterling Forest Resort in support of the use of park lands and/or access to a park road (Route 106) to facilitate the proposed New York State Thruway Exit 15B in letters dated June 6, 2014, June 13, 2014, June 27, 2014, August 26, 2014, September 10, 2014 and presentation materials dated May 27, 2014; and

**Whereas**, pursuant to the Commission Compact and the 1985 New York State law authorizing an easement of Commission property for Exit 15B, the Commission must determine that said easement will not interfere with use and enjoyment of park property by the public.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that in the Palisades Interstate Park Commission's opinion, the proposed development of New York State Thruway Exit 15B, in conjunction with Sterling Forest Resort, is not in accordance with our stewardship mission and the public trust to preserve the scenic beauty, natural resources and public enjoyment of **Sterling Forest and Harriman State Parks** and cannot affirmatively find that such action would not interfere with the use and enjoyment of park property by the public and therefore denies the Sterling Forest Resort request for support and approval of Exit 15B upon and/or accessing Commission property.