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SANDRA R. GALEF
Assemblywoman 95th District

January 14, 2021

The Honorable Erik Kulleseid
Commissioner
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Albany NY, 12238

Dear Commissioner Kulleseid,

On the Taconic State Parkway there are a number of signs advertising the Donald J. Trump State Park. It is time for these signs and this charade to end. There is no park, just abandoned structures and some woodlands. There are no designated trails, recreational areas, or signage. There is barely a parking lot. Originally meant to be a golf course, the park is simply the result of offloading a tax liability and reaping the publicity.

Broken into two sections, the Trump State Park sandwiches the State Park of a truly admirable New Yorker: Franklin Roosevelt. Franklin Roosevelt led our state and our country through some of our nation's darkest days. Through his leadership we are a freer and more equitable society. The same cannot be said of Mr. Trump. Like his park, Mr. Trump seeks to divide. This division has no place in our state.

With a second impeachment for inciting an insurrection we want people to be comfortable using our parks. His name will discourage the public from enjoying all our state has to offer. This is the part of our democratic renewal. It is my understanding that Mr. Trump did not sign the appropriate documents with the state, rendering any claim of breach of contract moot. We can and should rename the park. Luckily, a fitting New Yorker comes to mind. Former Governor Pataki has called the Hudson Valley home for decades. Mr. Pataki made environmental conservation and preservation part of his agenda and it should be acknowledged publicly.

We must take a stand. The motorists on the Taconic have complained for years, increasing recently, that our state directs people to a defunct park named for Mr. Trump. I can think of no better way to honor our two State Mottos of Excelsior and E Pluribus Unum than by ridding a blight from our state and replacing it with a demonstration of bipartisanship and shared values.

Thank you for your consideration. I eagerly await your response and look forward to working together for the betterment of New York State.

Sincerely,

Sandy Galef
Assemblywoman

CC: Linda Cooper, Regional Director NYS OPRHP
Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner NYS DOT
Lance MacMillan, Regional Director NYS DOT