



## SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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### JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET HEARING – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 26, 2026

**Testimony Submitted By:** Sullivan County Legislature (Nadia Rajs, Chair)

Chair's Senator Krueger & Assemblyman Gary Pretlow and members of the State Legislature, please accept our submission of testimony as it relates to including the following legislation in the 2026-2027 State Budget:

**A 8050** Kay Same as S 7787 ADDABBO

Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law

TITLE....Relates to host counties and host municipalities of commercial gaming facilities

In short, current New York state law requires 10 percent of the State's gross tax revenue from each Upstate Casino be split between the host county and host municipality. Now that downstate casino awards have been authorized, this bill simply requires that taxes being collected by the state from the downstate casinos go to ensure no host county or municipality for upstate casinos collects less money in aid than they did before downstate casinos were operational. This does not change the tax rate for any casinos. This does not require any downstate facility to pay any additional money beyond the taxes already set in statute. This bill only requires taxes being collected from downstate casinos be directed to hold host upstate counties and host municipalities harmless to the extent necessary required to offset a reduction in gross gaming revenue being collected from upstate facilities and directed to host municipalities.

Sullivan County hosts the closest of the upstate casinos, Resort World Sullivan, to all of the now licensed downstate casinos and undoubtedly will be negatively affected financially in both direct (host fees) and indirect (sales, occupancy taxes) revenue streams to the County.

The attached report to this testimony, "The Impact of New Downstate Casinos on Sullivan County's Economy & Resorts World Catskills (RWC)," prepared by Capacity Consulting at the County of Sullivan's request earlier this year details the extremely deep impacts that up to three New York City-based casinos will have on the operations and revenues of Resorts World Catskills in Monticello, Sullivan County, the Town of Thompson, the Village of Monticello, the Monticello Central School District, and surrounding municipalities, businesses and agencies.

In summary the report shows, multiple downstate casinos could affect Sullivan County as follows:

- Lose Jobs and Tax Revenue (one downstate casino scenario alone would mean nearly 400 jobs lost, \$13.8 million in wages gone, and \$2.3 million in local tax revenue eliminated. This includes sales tax, room tax, and gaming tax that funds county and town services.
- drop County revenue streams by up to 76%.
- RWC Is the Region's Economic Anchor and New Casinos Could Jeopardize. That Ecosystem RWC is not just a casino, it's an economic engine in Sullivan County. It's the single largest tourism driver and a major employer.
- RWC Already Serves the NYC Market and Could Be the First to Lose That Business RWC buses patrons in from Flushing, Chinatown, and Midtown. It appears to be how RWC accessed that downstate market. If casinos are built closer to those customers, Sullivan County could lose significant visitors very quickly even with RWC (Genting) winning its downstate casino license.

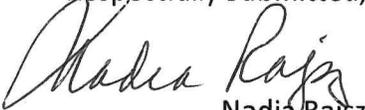
Including, the legislation highlighted above, it a crucial first step, in protecting the upstate casino host communities, none more important than Sullivan County. In 2013, when casino's were authorized, there was no better choice to locate one of the upstate casino's than Sullivan County.

This was never about a head start or number of years, for our casino and county to be financially viable, this was about rejuvenating and allowing our County to economically survive. While the overall upstate casino market has failed to make their initial projections, these revenues received because of having the casino in our county has become the lifeblood of the services, we provide to our community.

In short, the upstate casino market has not materialized to the extent projections and licensees promised, and now with the onset of the downstate market about to materialize, it is more critical than every that Sullivan County be protected and held harmless to any potential financial impact received once they are operational.

We thank you for you attention to this request and your review of the study. If there are any questions or comments, feel free to reach out and we look forward to continue the discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nadia Rajsz

Chair, Sullivan County Legislature

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