

Adirondack Daily Enterprise
June 22, 2011

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reasonable opinion and a right to it

To the editor:

The prejudice-filled rant by Mark Moeller on June 17 attacked the Adirondack Council for offering an alternative design for the largest development project ever proposed in the Adirondack Park - the Adirondack Club and Resort in Tupper Lake.

We have stated repeatedly we support a ski resort at the defunct Big Tupper Ski Center. We feel it could be accomplished without undue harm to the environment. Over the past six years, at the applicant's request, we reviewed the proposed development and offered useful revisions, many of which are now in the plan.

We didn't ask the Adirondack Park Agency to kill the permit. We asked for modifications that would lead to easier approval. Further, we provided real, professionally prepared plans and illustrations to demonstrate how our plan for compact, clustered development could work. We also offered expert testimony to back up those plans.

The Adirondack Council proposed a plan with exactly the same number of homes and businesses as the developer's plan. But our plan uses far less open space, harms far less wildlife habitat and degrades far less pure water. It is modeled on plans that have worked in other ski communities. In short, our plan would be better for Tupper Lake's long-term future.

Keep in mind that we are merely one organization out of dozens of parties to this hearing. We cannot impose our will on the Park Agency. We can only make logical and reasonable suggestions and hope the applicant and the APA pay attention. Mr. Moeller didn't attack the details of our plan. He attacked us for giving our opinion and illustrating what we meant. In America, everyone has a right to express his opinion. At public hearings, all parties have a right to participate.

John F. Sheehan

The Adirondack Council

Albany