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## **EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRAND RE-OPENING OF WINDHAM COUNTRY CLUB IN THE CATSKILLS**

### ***Country Club Restoration Completed As Part Of Windham Mountain's \$15 Million Transformational Project***

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced the grand re-opening of Windham Country Club, nearly five years after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Sandy devastated the area. The Country Club's re-opening bolsters the growing number of tourism assets the Catskills Region has to offer and is one of several projects completed by Windham Mountain as part of a \$15 million transformational project.

A photo from today's grand re-opening can be viewed [here](#).

"The Catskills are home to amazing destinations, from cultural attractions like Bethel Woods Center for the Arts to important historical sites like the home of Thomas Cole," **said ESD President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky**. "The region is also well known as a beacon for outdoor activities, and today, we celebrate the grand opening of Windham Country Club, bringing a new golf experience to a growing tourism region with exciting travel opportunities available year round."

Windham Mountain Resort's \$15 million investment, since 2011, has transformed Windham Mountain and its affiliated tourism attractions. The project includes the purchase and restoration of Windham Country Club golf course; a new mountain bike park and the development of a new trail system; an Alpine Spa; expansion of ski trails and a new ski learning center; and improvements to infrastructure. ESD supported the project with nearly \$1.5 million through Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council initiative. Windham Mountain has committed to create nearly 50 new, full-time jobs.

**Chip Seamans, Windham Mountain Resort General Manager said**, "The re-opening of the golf course today is another step in our transformation of this part of Greene County into a world-class four-season resort. People are coming to Windham for skiing, mountain biking, golf, special events like weddings and bachelor/bachelorette parties and a complete pampering experience. We're so proud to be a part of this renaissance of this community."

The historic flooding and destruction caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011 decimated top soil, gravel, and asphalt to depths of several feet, causing damage to nearly 510-acres, including flood damage to the base lodge of Windham Mountain. With support from the Capital Region Economic Development Council and ESD, the new storm water systems have enhanced water collection and conveyance, and include new piping to direct storm water flow.

**Senator George Amedore said,** "After being devastated by flooding nearly five years ago, the Town of Windham continues to build back stronger than ever. The Windham Country Club always played an integral role in the local economy, and today's re-opening signifies an exciting milestone in the community's recovery. The restored golf course will attract even more visitors to experience everything the region has to offer, and I wish them much success."

"It is an honor and a pleasure to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Windham Country Club nearly five years after being devastated by storms and flooding of historic proportions," **said Assemblyman Peter Lopez.** "Windham Mountain Resort's investment in the club and our community has helped the town heal. I commend and thank the hundreds of people who worked tirelessly to restore the Windham Country Club to its former glory. Tourism is a very large part of our local economy and the restoration of the club provides yet another recreational opportunity for local residents and tourists as well as creating employment opportunities."

**Town of Windham Supervisor Bob Pelham said,** "The Mountain and the town have a great relationship, everyone has worked really hard to make Windham a four season destination. The town is very fortunate there are a lot of second home owners that make significant contributions to the town, especially after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Windham is very fortunate to have this support."

The Capital Region Economic Development Council supported the transformational project, as it is consistent with its regional strategic plan to enhance tourism assets and drive economic development in the region. The storm water system project was managed and completed by Delaware Engineering, P.C., based in Albany, NY. For more information on Windham Mountain and the Windham Country Club, visit [www.windhammountain.com](http://www.windhammountain.com).

### **About Empire State Development**

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency ([www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov)). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit [www.nyworks.ny.gov](http://www.nyworks.ny.gov) and [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov).

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