



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## \$8 Million for Belleayre Mountain Part of Budget Amendments

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**ALBANY, 02/16/17 --** State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I/Ref – Oneonta) today stated his support for the \$8 million funding award for Belleayre Mountain Ski Center included in Governor Cuomo's 30 day amendments to the 2017-18 executive budget proposal.

**“I am extremely pleased that the governor is righting a wrong and proposing a significant state investment in the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center,”** said Senator Seward. **“The \$8 million award earmarked for a high-speed gondola and other needed upgrades will help transform Belleayre and make the ski center a more attractive year-round destination.”**

Several weeks ago, the governor announced \$20 million for upgrades at ORDA-run facilities at Gore Mountain and Whiteface Ski Center, but no capital budget funding for Belleayre. Senator Seward immediately pointed out the inequity and joined local advocates for Belleayre in encouraging the governor to invest in the Catskills.

**“New York City skiers are consistently driving past Belleayre on their way to New England, taking their tourist dollars with them. Investing in Belleayre will change that trend, leading to more visitors to the Catskills and a boost to the local economy,”** added Seward.

In 2015 the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) approved and issued a permit for the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center’s unit management plan for expansion and modernization.

**“Belleayre’s improvement plans are ready but they will be stranded at the bottom of the mountain without state support. The state must make a strong commitment to this vital economic development, tourism, and sport mainstay,”** Seward concluded.