



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATORS UNITE AROUND JOHN PARETE FOR OLYMPIC REGION (ORDA) BOARD

Ulster County Legislators have introduced a resolution in support of naming Legislator John Parete to the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) Board under a new State Law.

Under a provision of the State budget, ORDA will soon start operating the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. ORDA's Board will increase to twelve, with one appointment each by Governor Cuomo from Ulster and Delaware Counties.

After her election as Chairman of the County Legislature, Terry Bernardo promised to fight for a specific representative of Ulster County on the ORDA Board. Governor Cuomo had proposed that Delaware and Ulster Counties share a single representative. Bernardo, in January after her election as Legislative Chairman, singled out Legislator John Parete when calling for an Ulster County specific representative.

Now, less than three months later, that goal appears to be on track. Several Legislators have introduced a resolution encouraging Governor Cuomo to name John Parete to the ORDA Board. Sponsored by Legislative Chairman Bernardo, Minority Leader Donaldson, Legislator Gregorius, Vice Chairman Maloney and Majority Leader Ronk, all remaining Legislators have signed on as Co-sponsors.

"Our region needs two representatives on the ORDA Board. Both Assemblyman Cahill and Senator Bonacic fought for that, and I appreciate their joint efforts. I can think of nobody more qualified than John Parete to sit on a Board like ORDA," Majority Leader Ronk said.

"We have a uniquely qualified candidate in Legislator John Parete. He serves as a policy maker in local government, has ties to the community, and has a keen awareness of the issues in Shandaken," said Legislator Gregorius. "We get the full gamut with John representing us in this capacity."

"John Parete not only represents Belleayre in the County Legislature, but he owns a restaurant and is in the hospitality business. He has tremendous people skills, and enjoys wide-spread bi-partisan support. He is really uniquely situated to represent Ulster County on a Board like ORDA. People will listen to John," said Legislature Chairman Terry Bernardo.

Bernardo met ORDA President Ted Blazer in Albany three weeks ago, along with other local officials. Blazer, who has roots in Delaware County, seemed interested and enthusiastic about Belleayre becoming a part of ORDA when he spoke to the group of officials according to Bernardo.

The decision on the Board member is ultimately Governor Cuomo's and anybody he proposes must still be approved by the Republican controlled State Senate.

Legislator John Parete said, "I am appreciative of the support of my colleagues. I will be asking the Governor for his support and am confident if selected I can help represent our region on the ORDA Board. Ultimately I recognize that the choice is the Governor's. However, I would be honored to serve."

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