



CATSKILL MOUNTAINKEEPER
The Advocate for the Catskills

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Catskill Mountainkeeper Supports Lawsuit that Challenges Wording in N.Y. Casino Referendum

Says ballot is not objective

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"We support Eric Snyder's lawsuit challenging the state's irresponsible referendum language – and urge New Yorkers to get the real facts about casinos," said Ramsay Adams, Executive Director of Catskill Mountainkeeper.

Snyder, a Brooklyn attorney, filed a lawsuit Tuesday in state Supreme Court in Albany, saying a proposed amendment to allow casinos "constitutes the use of public money to advocate the position of a public institution, in violation of the New York State Constitution." The language, which the State Board of Elections approved in July, mentions only positive "legislative purposes" of the casino proposal, including "promoting job growth, increasing aid to schools and permitting local governments to lower property taxes." Referendum language is typically neutral.

"Study after study shows that casinos do more harm than good, especially in rural areas. We oppose casinos in the Catskills because of the pervasive and compelling environmental, social and economic problems that will accompany casino development and ultimately would harm the very people they're supposed to help."

For more information on Catskill Mountainkeeper's position on casinos in the Catskills please visit: <http://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/our-programs/casinos/>. For a copy of the lawsuit, [please contact us](#).

Read the New York Times story on the lawsuit here: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/02/nyregion/lawyer-contests-casino-referendums-wording.html>

[Catskill Mountainkeeper](#) is a community-based environmental advocacy organization dedicated to creating a flourishing sustainable economy in upstate New York and preserving and protecting the area's long-term health.

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