

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development agency has approved a \$10 million conditional loan guarantee for the Hope Lake Lodge and Water Park Mountain Resort in Virgil.

“Loans like this provide local businesses in rural communities throughout Upstate New York with the capital they need to expand their businesses and grow the local economy,” said Arcuri. “By helping the local ski and tourism economy, this loan brings much needed federal resources back into the community – creating jobs and increased business opportunities. Since taking office, I have worked to protect the growing ski and tourism industry in Cortland and help local business owners.”

Funds will be used to provide capital needed for permanent financing of the water park and the first floor of the hotel which are part of the Hope Lake project to be built next to Greek Peak ski area. The new year-round resort will feature a 22,000 square-foot indoor water park, a 106-room, five-story hotel and condominium complex, a restaurant, lounge, spa and other amenities. The development will create an estimated 186 full-time positions.

“Our mission at USDA Rural Development is to improve economic conditions and the quality of life in rural communities and the Hope Lake project will accomplish both of those goals,” said Patrick H. Brennan, State Director for USDA Rural Development in New York. “I’m especially pleased that our loan guarantee program was used. The guarantee program enables us to generate significant private investment in rural communities at little to no cost to taxpayers and is one of the innovative approaches USDA Rural Development is using to improve economic conditions in New York State.”

“I am happy that after the long process we’ve gone through to see it finally come to fruition,” said Al Kryger President of Peak Resorts Inc. “This will have a major impact on central New York tourism - create local jobs and help stabilize the Greek Peak Mountain resort.”

USDA Rural Development’s Business and Industry (B&I) Loan Guarantee Program helps lenders provide credit for expansion and preservation of jobs in rural communities. The guarantee allows lenders to make larger loans, provide better rates and terms, and bring additional capital into rural communities. Last year, USDA Rural Development’s B&I loan guarantee program invested more than \$50 million in rural New York. Since 2001, USDA Rural

Development has invested more than \$1.2 billion in the state.

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