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New York State Senator James Seward  
and the Royce Family Foundation Partner to Provide Funding Needed  
to Complete the Orpheum Performing Arts Center

July 19, 2008, Tannersville, N.Y. The Catskill Mountain Foundation announced today that state Senator James L. Seward (R-C-I – Oneonta) has secured \$500,000 in New York State Senate Economic Assistance funding for the Orpheum Theater project in Tannersville. The Royce Family Fund has also agreed to match the funding secured by Senator Seward with a donation of \$500,000. The Greene County Legislature has agreed to provide \$30,000 in funding this year for the Orpheum Performing Arts Center project and expects that this will be the first in a series of new annual contributions from the County for this project. These funds, along with outstanding pledges for the Orpheum and a \$500,000 construction line of credit from Key Bank, have made it possible for the Catskill Mountain Foundation to resume work on the Orpheum. Work will continue until the Orpheum theater is complete. These new funds, totaling approximately \$2 million, will enable the Catskill Mountain Foundation to complete the construction on the Orpheum Performing Arts Center.

Commenting on the state funding, Senator Seward said “One of the things that has always impressed me about the Catskill Mountain Foundation is its ability to put together strong public/private partnerships. Many worthy organizations request funding from

Federal, State and County agencies and unfortunately they cannot fund every worthy project. In this situation public funds are being leveraged with significant private donations. State, Federal and County funding account for about 38 percent of the total Orpheum budget, with the rest coming from private donors. It becomes very attractive for public funding sources to invest in a project like this when it is clear that public funds will be leveraged so strongly with private donations. We look forward to seeing the Orpheum theater becoming a reality and to the long term economic benefits a project like this so often brings to its community and surrounding areas.”

Senator Seward added “While the arts are very important in terms of quality of life, ultimately the Orpheum Performing Arts Center is an economic development project. Facilities like this have a proven track record in attracting more visitors to the area, and strengthening the economic viability of Main Street businesses. We need and want more people visiting and living in our community, taking advantage of our wonderful attractions and opportunities. This will help strengthen every retail business in our area. There are no simple and quick solutions to the economic challenges that face our community and many other rural communities in upstate New York and other rural communities around the country. Many communities have found building facilities like the Orpheum to be effective tools in economic revitalization efforts and I am pleased, on behalf of the senate to be a partner in helping this become a reality for our community”.

The Orpheum Performing Arts Center was designed by Hugh Hardy and Geoff Lynch of H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture LLC of New York City. Hugh Hardy has designed many performing arts centers throughout the United States, including the Glimmerglass Opera House in Cooperstown NY. The Orpheum movie theater in

Tannersville has been closed for over 15 years and was originally a 4,000 square foot structure. The new Orpheum Performing Arts Center incorporates the original Orpheum Movie Theater structure, and has been expanded to approximately 12,000 square feet. The renovated and expanded building will include dressing rooms, seating for 270 people in the auditorium with a rake so that every seat has a good view of the stage. The stage will be 35 feet deep and 40 feet wide, with 15 foot wings on either side. The new lobby will be large enough to accommodate the audience during intermissions. The stage has been designed specifically for dance, theater, and orchestral performances, none of which can fit properly on the stage of the Doctorow Center for the Arts in the Village of Hunter, also owned and operated by the Catskill Mountain Foundation. The Orpheum will also be equipped to show films.

Adjacent to the Orpheum is an apartment building also owned by the Catskill Mountain Foundation. It will be renovated and turned into artist housing which will make it possible for the Foundation to host out-of-town theater and dance companies who wish to be in residence at the Orpheum for extended periods of time. Once the Orpheum and the adjacent apartments are completed the Foundation intends to actively market both facilities to arts groups in New York City and elsewhere who are looking for affordable facilities where they can have extended retreats for the development of new works.

The Orpheum Performing Arts Center is a project of the Catskill Mountain Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit arts organization located in the towns of Hunter and Windham in the Greene County Mountaintop area. The Foundation, which is working to turn Greene County into a nationally and internationally known arts destination, is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2008. The Foundation has a full time staff of

approximately 25 and in its first ten years has raised approximately \$15 million from private donors and about \$2.5 million from public funding agencies. It has used these funds to create jobs in arts programming, management and facility development for local residents, to acquire and renovate abandoned or underutilized properties, turning community eyesores into thriving arts facilities, and to communicate widely its message that Greene County and the greater Catskill Region is becoming an increasingly important arts destination. The Foundation has also generated approximately \$12 million in operating revenues which it has invested back into the community by paying salaries to local residents.

The Foundation's other projects include the Sugar Maples Center for Creative Arts in the Hamlet of Maplecrest in the Town of Windham, the Doctorow Center for the Arts in the Village of Hunter (which houses a performing arts space, two movie screens and the Pleshakov Piano Museum), and Hunter Village Square, which houses the Foundation's bookstore, fine arts and crafts gallery, and its Fresh Harvest Café. The Foundation also publishes the Catskill Mountain Region Guide magazine, which has its offices in Hunter Village Square. The Foundation's administrative offices and original performing arts space are in the renovated red barn in the Village of Hunter.

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