

SAMPLE LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

Dear _____,

As a resident of the Adirondack region, I am writing to express my deep concern about the NYS Senate budget proposal that completely eliminates the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) funding.

As you know, the ORDA manages the Olympic and sports facilities in Essex and Warren Counties. These venues represent an important asset to the Adirondacks' tourism-dependent economy in many ways. First, the ski jumps, sliding track, ski mountains and Olympic Center provide a unique visitor experience that sets Lake Placid apart from other destinations.

Second, the organization employs 888 individuals from the local four county area it serves (Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Warren). Our region cannot withstand further job losses, especially in this economic climate.

The venues allow our region to host national and world events, and they are in constant use for athlete training year round. New York sent 32 athletes to compete in Vancouver - and most have trained in Lake Placid. On the heels of the recent Olympic Winter Games, it is clear that these facilities are a true asset not only to our tourism economy, but to the State.

It is imperative that our elected officials recognize the significance of the Olympic venues - their existence and continued use for training and competition keeps Lake Placid and New York State in the international winter sports spotlight.

Please consider the importance of these venues and their continued operation to the fragile economy of the Adirondack region and reverse the elimination of state funding for the Olympic Regional Development Authority.

Sincerely,

Concerned citizen