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## **Burke Mountain Hotel & Conference Center Celebrates its Official Opening with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (East Burke, VT): Burke Mountain Resort today cut the ribbon on the first hotel to ever open on its slopes. The Burke Mountain Hotel & Conference Center debuted with limited operations last month with two soft opening weekends as staff prepared the \$55 million facility for seven-days-a-week operations. Today's formal ceremony, attended by Governor Peter Shumlin along with several of his commissioners, local officials, community members, and resort staff, celebrated the hotel's official opening for daily operations.

"We knew this was a missing piece to the success of this resort," said Steve Olson, Chief Executive Officer of Leisure Hotel and Resorts, the management firm appointed to operate Burke Mountain on April 12 when the Securities and Exchange Commission placed the resort in federal receivership. "We were amazed how finished the project was when we began managing the resort, but understood the timing of the opening would play a big role in reservations. Fall is not only big for foliage travelers, but also biking, hiking, weddings, and conferences as we are already seeing by the amount of rooms being booked."

That point was proven this past weekend when Burke Mountain Resort saw record-breaking (non-ski) revenue numbers and sold every available room in the Hotel Saturday evening over the Labor Day holiday weekend. Over 140 people were toured Saturday afternoon during the community celebration and the feedback surrounding the weekend was positive.

The 116-suite hotel is located just below the MidBurke Express quad and can accommodate over 450 guests a day. The new facility also features a day lodge complete with a restaurant, pub, coffee shop, retail store, and an arcade.

"To see all of this come together feels so good" shares Jessica Sechler, Director of Marketing at Burke Mountain. "Some of the staff including myself remember walking around this building in hard hats and orange vests visualizing what this building will become. Now that we are open and seeing the results of all of our hard work payoff is something we'll remember for a long time".

With the Hotel now open daily, Burke Mountain has seen a steady increase in reservations over the next two months with some of its first ski & stay packages on the books. Employment applications have also increased as more jobs become available.

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