

Dear Residents of Troy,

Here are a few highlights from the February 12th meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature. Please contact me about these or other issues at 270-2890 or visit our website at www.rensselaercountygov.com.

▪ **Urged State Legislature to Restore Funds in 2008-09 State Budget**

The Governor's proposed state budget includes several reductions in reimbursements to Counties which include juvenile detention programs, welfare programs, nursing homes Causing concern for many local officials and residents.

The County Legislature's Majority filed numerous resolutions opposing the reductions. Our Minority offered amendments urging state legislative leaders, as co-equal partners in the budget process, to restore cuts proposed by the Governor

However, these amendments were not supported by the Majority. This should be an issue of protecting taxpayers -- not partisan, political attacks

▪ **Plastic Bag Recycling Program**

I was pleased my resolution calling for the County's Environmental Management Council to develop a countywide plastic bag recycling educational campaign was adopted. This will include visible plastic bag recycling bins to be located throughout the county to encourage greater recycling among residents.

A community awareness and educational campaign will also highlight the harmful effects plastic bags have on our environment and encourage use of environmental-friendly shopping bags in grocery and retail stores.

▪ **Appointed Environmental Management Council**

Since my election to the County Legislature and appointment to the Environment Committee of the Legislature, I have called for a more active Environmental Management Council, a citizen's advisory group, which has not met regularly for years. After several meetings and resolutions, I am pleased to report that new EMC have been appointed. I hope the new Council will be an active advocate on environmental issues.

▪ **Encouraged Reuse of State Facilities to Relieve County Jail Overcrowding**

Our Democratic caucus sees the fact that state facilities are closing as a potential opportunity we should investigate before committing further taxpayers' dollars in bonds for the county jail expansion. We did not support an additional \$12.5 million on top of the \$38 million already earmarked for expanding the county jail as ordered by the state. We want to see if the state facilities can be used for cost effectively first. Once we bond we cannot undo their costs to taxpayers.

Commendations

- RPI for its spectacular "Lights Above the Hudson"

DATES TO REMEMBER:

6:00pm Wednesday

March 5

Public Forum

6:00pm Tuesday

March 11

Monthly Meeting