

**For Your Information
Flora Fasoldt
Rensselaer County Legislator
Nassau-Sand Lake-Schodack**

The following are highlights from the August 14, 2007 meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature (RCL):

.Settlement - \$180,000 Jackson –v- Zwack – Upon advice of legal counsel, the Legislature voted to settle litigation against the County for \$180,000 involving former county employee, Jeffrey Jackson. Mr. Jackson served the county for more than 27 years and was the Director of Real Property Tax Services. Mr. Jackson maintained that County Executive Kathy Jimino improperly dismissed him from his position because he publicly criticized the actions of former County Executive Henry Zwack. Legislators were advised by county attorneys that if the settlement was not supported, taxpayers could potentially be forced to pay the entire judgment of \$1.8 million. The Republican Majority voted against an earlier settlement that would have cost taxpayers substantially less. Taxpayers must hold accountable the County Executive and Republican Majority for their mismanagement of our government as elected officials.

.Opposing the Closing of Farm Service Agency (FSA) Offices – The Legislature unanimously approved a resolution which opposes the closing of Farm Service Agency offices in Rensselaer County as well as neighboring counties.

.Protection of Farmland and Open Space – A resolution requesting the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to streamline policies to facilitate the protection of farmland and open space was approved by the RCL. The resolution requested the state department to conduct a review of the policies and procedures with relation to processing applications and transactions.

.Appointment – Capital District Regional Planning Commission – Along party lines, the Republican Majority appointed Leon Fiacco to the Capital District Regional Planning Commission. Minority Democrats did not support this appointment because we believe strongly that we provided a far more qualified candidate to fill this important vacancy.

.Fort Orange– Paper Co. – Castleton The Legislature voted unanimously to renew a request for the US Environmental Protection Agency to continue clean –up efforts of the Fort Orange property in Castleton to help return the site to active and productive use.

****Please feel free to contact me at 674-0223 or e-mail at electflora@aol.com with any questions or concerns. The Public Forum of the RCL is on Wednesday, September 5, 2007 at 6 PM where members of the public can address the Legislature. The next regular meeting of the RCL is September 11, 2007 at 6:00 PM; members of the public have an opportunity to speak prior to the opening of the meeting.****