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December 22, 2008

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Molinaro opposes elimination of Hudson River Greenway Council

ALBANY – State Assemblyman Marc Molinaro has told Governor David Paterson that he opposes a proposal to eliminate the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council and Hudson River Valley Greenway Heritage Conservancy.

Under the governor's budget proposal – in which he wants to eradicate the \$15.4 billion state deficit – he called for the transfer of the two agencies' liabilities, assets, and responsibilities to the Department of State.

"For more than a decade, as Village of Tivoli mayor and Dutchess County legislator, I saw firsthand the tremendous benefits these relationships have had on the residents of the entire Hudson Valley," Molinaro said in a letter to the governor.

"The Greenway's success in spurring inter-municipal cooperation and regional planning is a model for cost savings and consolidation at the local level," Molinaro said.

"The bottom line," said the Republican assemblyman, is that, "I do not believe that a savings of less than \$100,000 (assuming the loss of federal revenues for the management of the National Heritage Area and re-assignment of Greenway staff) is sufficient reason for elimination of these highly functional and successful organizations shifting the responsibility to the Department of State."

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