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Molinaro says Clinton replacement should come from upstate

ALBANY – Republican Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro is calling on Gov. Paterson to look upstate for the state's next junior senator.

It will be up to the governor to name a successor to Senator Hillary Clinton, who is President Elect Obama's choice for Secretary of State.

"President-Elect Barack Obama's selection of Senator Hillary Clinton as our nation's next Secretary of State doesn't come as a surprise", said Molinaro. "To her credit, Senator Clinton has served her constituents admirably and I wish her all the best as she prepares for the international challenges that lie ahead of us. As the Governor looks to select Senator Clinton's successor, he must keep in mind the importance of choosing a person with a vast wealth of state knowledge and a particular concern for upstate New York."

The Red Hook assemblyman said a candidate from, sympathetic to and knowledgeable of the upstate economy, communities and people would provide New York balanced and, perhaps, robust representation in the United States Senate.

"I would strongly encourage the Governor to select an upstate individual who presents the kind of enthusiastic and optimistic view of public service that will help to inspire our nation and state to address the enormous challenges facing all of us while providing all New Yorkers with a sense of security and comfort in knowing we have an outstanding junior Senator."

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