Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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LEGISLATORS JOBSON, HOOD AND DAY SUPPORT STATE BILL LIMITING BENEFITS TO FOREIGN ENERGY SUPPLIERS

New City, NY (October 25, 2012) – Rockland County Legislators Douglas J. Jobson, Jay Hood, and Ed Day have co-sponsored a memorializing resolution in support of NYS Senate Bill #S7391. The bill would limit the use of eminent domain to activities that maximize benefit to New York State. Primarily, the legislation takes aim at proposed energy transmission lines that would assist entities outside the United States by providing them with eminent domain benefits. These lines, such as the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project, would produce energy outside the state and create a line to deliver it to areas within the state.

By limiting the use of eminent domain, the proposed legislation would promote greater economic development to companies and locales within New York State and Rockland County, by encouraging power generation within the state. Preserving the use of waterways and rights-of-way for the sole use of companies within the State of New York would create jobs in the energy and construction sectors, provide tax benefits to local municipalities and the state, and ensure a safer and more secure energy supply for New York's future.

"The North Rockland Community has a long history and familiarity with energy operations and supply to the region. The siting and review process is onerous and protective for a variety of reasons. To think that a foreign corporation could usurp the production of local power diminishing our tax base is unacceptable," said Legislator Jay Hood, Jr.

"Why would we entertain a power line that is owned by a foreign entity?" asked Legislator Jobson. "We have a water company owned by the French and now this proposal from another foreign source. We cannot afford to place the control of our power system in the hands of a foreign entity."

In Rockland County, the proposed legislation would provide more opportunities to utilize the Lovett and Bowline plants in North Rockland, and transform them into the primary energy sources for the region. Employment and tax opportunities would benefit Rockland residents and municipalities for decades to come.

"This overly simplistic approach allowing eminent domain to cut a swath through North Rockland in order to bring power to New York City defies any sense of logic, particularly when that very same community has a ready ability to develop existing local facilities that would bring in permanent jobs and ratables here," said Legislator Ed Day. Enacting this legislation would force the matter to be fairly reviewed, and I am wholeheartedly in support of that."

The memorializing resolution calls on the State Senate to pass the proposal, the Assembly to pass an identical version in its chamber, and for the governor to sign it into law.

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