



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHAIRMAN OF ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO SIGN AGREEMENTS FOR WAWARSING FLOOD BUYOUT

Wawarsing- Legislative Chairman Terry Bernardo will sign the agreements intended to provide justice for many of the Wawarsing residents who have fallen victim to a lengthy and devastating battle with flooding. The signing will take place tomorrow, April 5, 2012 at 11:00 AM at the Wawarsing Town Hall, Justice Court Room, 108 Canal Street in Ellenville.

The buyout program will provide \$3.8 million from the Housing Trust Fund Corporation for homeowners who live near a New York City Aqueduct or whose homes were damaged by flooding in this region since April 1, 2004, and are further determined to be at future risk. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will provide \$3.7 million to supplement New York State's \$3.8 million in funding from the Housing Trust Fund.

The goal of this program is to remove people and their possessions from harm's way in areas that have been hit particularly hard by flooding and enable homeowners with properties that meet certain criteria to relocate from areas that remain vulnerable to flooding or water infiltration. This program will be managed by Ulster County Emergency Communications/Emergency Management, and the County would be authorized to purchase properties and demolish structures. Such properties will be dedicated in perpetuity for open space, recreational, wetlands or flood mitigation purposes.

Chairman Bernardo has continually fought on behalf of the victims in Wawarsing, and is pleased to be taking a step in the right direction by signing the agreements. The Chairman has pledged to continue to fight for additional funding to ensure affected residents receive the justice they deserve.

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