



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New “Green Ribbon Task Force” Created By Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson

David B. Donaldson, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, has announced the formation of a new “Green Ribbon Task Force” to address specific environmental issues and enable the Legislature to take immediate and long term corrective action. The Task Force will be comprised of core members who remain on the committee and provisional stake holders who are knowledgeable and have the expertise to address a particular issue at hand.

The core members of the committee are Legislators Gary Bischoff, David B. Donaldson and Brian Shapiro; Emilie Hauser of the League of Women Voters; and David Gross of the Woodstock Environmental Commission. The Task Force will be Chaired by Legislator Brian Shapiro from Woodstock (District No. 2). The first meeting will include stake holders and representatives from grocery stores and environmental groups. It will be held on **Wednesday, August 19th at 5:00 PM** in the Library Conference Room, 6th Floor of the Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.

The first issue to be addressed will be the use of cheap plastic bags that are handed out in large quantities by grocery and department stores. They often litter our roads, contaminate soils and enter waterways, thereby threatening fish and wildlife. In May of this year, the Legislature held a public hearing to address the possibility of grocery and department stores charging a 10c fee per bag to encourage the use

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of reusable bags. The public hearing revealed a general agreement that the bags were a problem but charging a fee wasn't necessarily the solution. The task force will be charged with looking at this matter further.

“This is an attempt by the Legislature to create a comprehensive policy on environmental concerns for Ulster County,” said Legislative Chairman Donaldson.