



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

Statement by Sen. Patty Ritchie and Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush

PATTY RITCHIE May 2, 2011

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"Coming in the wake of Lt. Gov. Bob Duffy's visit and announcement last week of a renewed state commitment to North Country housing, today's news from the Jefferson County Legislature is indeed welcome news for the future of jobs, Fort Drum, local communities and our entire region," said Senator Patty Ritchie. "I want to especially single out Legislature Chair Carolyn Fitzpatrick for her leadership in recognizing the importance of adequate and affordable housing to the success of Fort Drum."

"I look forward to continuing to work closely with all of our elected county and state government leaders to insure that the men and women of the 10th Mountain Division returning to Fort Drum can find the kind of safe and quality housing that they and their families deserve," Senator Ritchie said. "By working together, we can ease this housing crisis and build a brighter future for our region. "

Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush said, "This financial support exemplifies the county's commitment to our military families. With a \$1.5 billion economic impact on the region, Fort Drum is undoubtedly one of the largest economic engines in our area. I applaud the county's decision to reinvest some of its revenue into building more housing, which will go a long way in ensuring the future of Fort Drum in the North Country.