GREENWAY EXPANSION READY TO BE MADE PERMANENT

JOHN J. BONACIC July 17, 2009

ISSUE: ENVIRONMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Hudson River Valley Greenway has proven to be a positive influence in the region. It has encouraged better local planning and provided funds for beautification around the region.

When the Greenway was created, it excluded communities in the Catskill State Park. In 2006, I wrote the legislation - which became law to allow those communities in Ulster County to participate, regardless of whether or not they are in the Catskill Park.

The initial Greenway concerns that it would lead toward bigger government have been proven to be untrue. This year, legislation to make that 2006 law permanent has passed the Senate and Assembly and will soon be considered - and probably signed into law by the Governor.

As the Hudson Valley continues to grow, planning and zoning will become more and more important. For more information on the Hudson River Valley Greenway visit their website: http://www.hudsongreenway.state.ny.us/ For more information on better community planning, visit the New York Planning Federation (which is not a State agency) at www.nypf.org