



# Rensselaer County Legislature

## Office of the Minority

**TO:** NYS Commission on Local Government Efficiency  
and Competitiveness

**DATED:** June 12, 2007

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Minority Leader

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As Rensselaer County Legislators, we applaud Governor Spitzer and the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness for scheduling these hearings to identify ways to streamline local governments, to avoid duplication, and benefit taxpayers.

Counties are caught in the middle of layers and levels of government that are often duplicative and expensive to taxpayers. With costly mandates from state and federal government, counties are being forced to make serious decisions about what services we can and cannot afford to deliver.

We hope these hearings will provide creative strategies and approaches for shared services, regionalized government and cost containment. More efficient government will benefit taxpayers.

Additionally, we urge this Commission to go beyond these hearings and provide funding incentives to encourage local governments to work together. Only with sufficient financial support will shared services succeed.

Thank you

***Ginny O'Brien***, *Minority Leader;*  
*Member, Local Government Committee*

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