

Kevin Roberts
Ulster County Legislator- District 12
Minority Leader of the Republican Caucus

Chair Criswell, Leader Uchitelle, Deputy Leaders Levine and Lopez, my fellow Legislators, and guests. Mr. Chairman congratulations on your re-election as chair of this body I look forward to working with you and all of my colleagues when possible.

Once again, It is an honor to be standing here as the Minority Leader addressing this body. I would not be here, if not for the support of my caucus.

It is my pleasure to introduce my Republican colleagues. Legislators Corcoran, Hansut, Kovacs, Litts, Lopez Kitchen, Maloney and Walls. Together with Minority Attorney Pascale, we are the Republican Caucus.

Over the years we have proven to be responsible partners in providing the best services for our constituents. We will work with Our Democrat colleagues and County Executive Metzger whenever possible.

I will not use my time allowed to brag about legislative victories or dwell on defeats. We need to be focused on what lies ahead.

Together with Legislators Hansut and Clinton, we met with a group of Fire Commissioners from 3 fire depts representing parts of Plattekill, Lloyd and Newburgh. Lack of resources, money and volunteers, the vital EMS services are changing and not for the better.

Legislator Kovac's resolution that provides financial aid to the towns is a great start. The County along with the towns must provide leadership on this crisis.

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For years, we have debated our Solid Waste Management System. We can all agree that trucking our Waste, 570 miles round trip is not sustainable.

Next month, we will debate another possible landfill siting. This time in Wawarsing. We all know a landfill anywhere in Ulster County is not going to happen. Why are going down this dead-end road again?

Sullivan County is quietly studying the feasibility of a Waste to Energy Facility. This Facility will be built in Sullivan County.

As other counties have struggled with this problem, Sullivan County is leading the way. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to partner with Sullivan. Not only can we be partners, but we can influence the size, scope and model of their new facility. Sweden for example sends only 1% of their MSW to a landfill. 52% is turned into Energy and 47% is recycled.

Once again, I thank you all.