

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE



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Minority Leader 845-340-3900

VICTORIA A. FABELLA
Clerk 845-340-3666

February 24, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We, the below signed members of the Ulster County Legislature join with Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan in calling for the establishment of a joint State-County COVID vaccination distribution site in Kingston, New York. Just this morning you announced the opening of new sites at York College in Queens and Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn. We commend and thank you for all of your efforts in securing and delivering vaccines to New Yorkers.

Without question Ulster County provides the geographic convenience for residents of the greater Hudson Valley area and, more importantly, the facility, capacity and staff to deliver an estimated 50,000 vaccines a month from our current site at the Kate Walton Field House at the Kingston High School. This standalone facility lies midway between New York City and Albany, is only 2 miles off the Thruway's Exit 19, and is accessible by public transportation. The nearest vaccination sites to Kingston are Albany (+/- 60 miles) and Westchester (+/- 95 miles) with neither site currently serving zip codes from this area.

The joint vaccination sites slated to open in March in Buffalo, Rochester, Albany and Yonkers have an estimated ability to administer 1,000 vaccines a day. The Ulster County Kate Walton Fieldhouse site has been up and running for several weeks with a proven capability of safely and effectively administering almost twice that amount when an adequate supply of vaccine is available. It goes without saying that delays and expenses associated with setting up a new site can be avoided by using an already successfully established site with the potential of reaching thousands of New Yorkers the moment vaccines are available.

Like many, Hudson Valley residents, especially Seniors and low-income rural populations in the region, have been frustrated in their efforts to get vaccinated. Eligible individuals with home computers and personal transportation are also struggling to schedule an appointment within an hour's drive. The extensive planning, expertise and ability of Ulster County's Health, Emergency Management, and Information Services Departments under the leadership of County Executive Ryan have placed us in a position to activate a regional distribution center at a moment's notice.

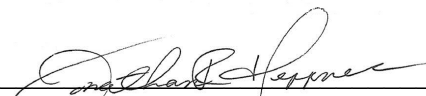
We truly appreciate your time and consideration.

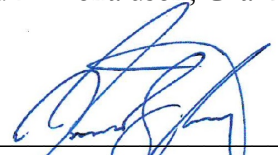
Sincerely,

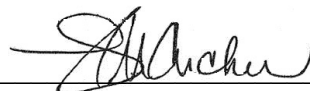
Tracey A. Bartels, Vice-Chair


cc: Ulster County's NYS Senate and Assembly Representatives


David B. Donaldson, Chairman

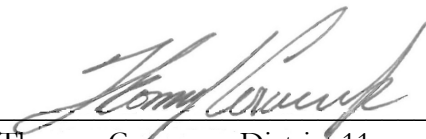

Jonathan Heppner, Majority Leader

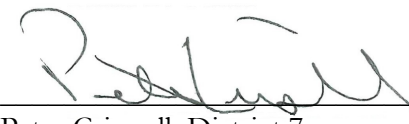

Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Minority Leader



Lynn Archer, District 21

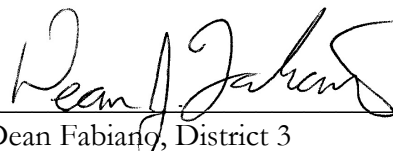

Albert Bruno, District 2



Brian Cahill, District 4

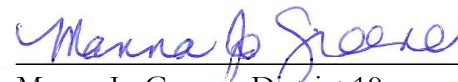

Thomas Corcoran, District 11

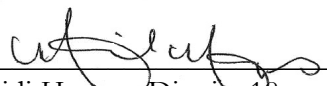

Peter Criswell, District 7

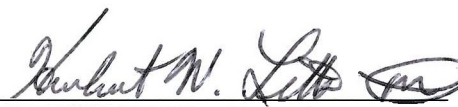

James DeLaune, District 17


Dean Fabiano, District 3


John Gavaris, District 15

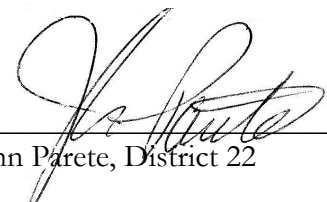

Manna Jo Greene, District 19

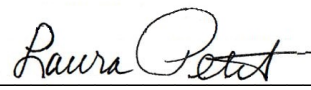

Heidi Haynes, District 18

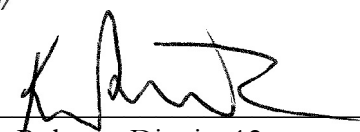

Herbert Litts, III, District 9



Craig Lopez, District 14

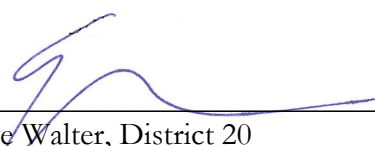

Mary Beth Maio, District 10

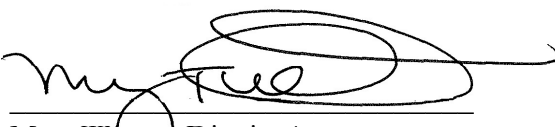

John Parete, District 22


Laura Petit, District 8


Kevin Roberts, District 12


Abe Uchitelle, District 5


Eve Walter, District 20


Mary Wawro, District 1