Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legislator Coker Convenes Multi-County Meeting to Discuss Environmental Issues Within the Hudson Valley Region

New City, NY (July 28, 2010) – Rockland County Legislator Connie Coker, Chairwoman of the Legislature's Environmental Committee held a meeting of government officials from New York's lower Hudson Valley region to discuss and share information and ideas on environmental issues that have an effect upon the region**.** Those present included: Westchester County Legislator Peter Harckham, Ulster County Legislator Kevin Roberts, Barbara Fatianni from the NYS Department of Conservation Estuary Program. Legislators Harckham and Roberts chair their county's committees that are relevant to the environment and conservation. Chairwoman of the Rockland County Legislature Harriet Cornell and County Legislator Alden H. Wolfe were also present.

"My purpose in asking to meet with Legislators from each County in the lower Hudson Valley," Legislator Coker explained, "is to share ideas around the most effective ways to continue to enhance the quality of our water, air, and soil. Therefore, we will each have an opportunity to report on our County's actions relative to protecting the environment and decreasing energy usage. We are all limited by budget restraints and by meeting together we may develop ways to share information and resources."

Water and air quality, energy, flooding, Indian Point and regional planning issues, such as the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 project were among the topics discussed at the July 28th meeting. Management of water that runs into the Hudson River, which all four counties border, was also a topic of the discussion.

"As we all share the Hudson River," Coker added, "it seems valuable to have a discussion on how best to protect the quality of the water that flows through our counties to the Hudson."

"By listening to and considering the priorities of each county represented," said Coker, "we may begin to develop a regional perspective around environmental issues."

The officials will develop a meeting schedule and plan topical discussions for each session. Officials from Orange and Putnam Counties have also committed to attend the meetings.

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