

TEXT OF LETTER TO GOVERNOR

Editor's Note: This is the draft of a letter asking Governor Cuomo to put his support behind completion of the Constitution Pipeline. The draft will be considered by the Otsego County Board of Representatives when it meets at 10 a.m. tomorrow (Wednesday) at the County Office Building in Cooperstown.

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Recently, an editorial written by Tom Vilsack, the U.S Secretary of Agriculture appeared in a local newspaper. He wrote the following, "We know when rural communities do well, America does well. Rural America provides us with the food we eat, the water we drink, and the energy we use, ... That's why it's good news that in all corners of rural America we're seeing real, positive change take hold for the first time in the years since the Great Recession."

Unfortunately this does not apply to Otsego County. Opiate addiction and overdose, alcohol abuse and DWI, domestic violence and child abuse are at epidemic proportions here. Poverty is the illness. Good jobs are the cure.

To this end Otsego County and its neighbors need the Constitution Pipeline. This pipeline has the potential to provide natural gas to industry and business as well as local municipalities and individual homes. Where will the gas go if the Constitution Pipeline is not built? It will go by pipeline to Louisiana and Mexico. In Louisiana it will be converted to liquid and sent overseas. In Mexico it will supply cheap clean energy for new industries and jobs there.

Following two devastating floods, Amphenol rebuilt in Sidney NY. The promise of a natural gas pipeline was calculated into their building plans. Other industries which might locate here won't make the same miscalculation. Potential new jobs won't materialize. Older established jobs will leave.

Rural America, specifically the Marcellus Shale provides the natural gas. Rural America should benefit.

Please reconsider the many benefits the Constitution Pipeline could provide to our area, and direct the Department of Environmental Conservation to work constructively with the natural gas industry for the pipeline's completion.

Sincerely,

James Powers, Otsego County Representative District 2

Edwin Frazier, Otsego County Representative District 1