



April 11, 2018

Kevin Lewis, Chairman
Greene County Legislature
411 Main Street
Suite 408
Catskill, New York 12414

Dear Chairman Lewis,

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages and requests that the Greene County Legislature investigate and study every possible solution for the replacement of the existing Greene County Jail before taking any votes on a permanent course of action.

This request includes funding the feasibility study for the shared jail concept with Columbia County as well as funding and pursuing all other studies necessary to ascertain the facts and information on the shared jail concept. With that in mind we strongly ask that you fully explore and determine the details and information necessary concerning the shared jail concept before making any final determinations. This includes having substantive conversations with New York State government officials to get the necessary amendments to existing law presented and passed to make the shared jail concept possible.

This request also includes funding studies for reexamining and studying revisions to the plans and design for the proposed new jail on the Coxsackie site. Since this is an extremely large cost to Greene County and will strain our financial resources for years to come, we must be sure to build a facility that is appropriately sized and scoped to meet our needs at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers.

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce does not take this position lightly. I have personally interviewed nearly 100 of our member businesses to date, all of whom support this position we are taking.

What is most concerning to us is the apparent lack of knowledge on the part of the citizens of Greene County as to the information or any knowledge at all as it pertains to the new jail. Based on our experience of polling our members, once people are given the information, they are not supportive of the present course of action in the Legislature. We hope that the Legislature will make it a priority to educate the public about the new jail proposals so that the citizens of Greene County are informed and can give the Legislature active feedback on the course they take.

It is the responsibility of the Legislature to act in the best interest of its constituents. We implore you to go down every avenue to its end before making any decision. Only with all of the facts before you can you make a decision that is in that best interest.



The Greene County Chamber of Commerce is here to support these efforts in any way necessary. We expect that once armed with all of the information, the Legislature will make a decision that is best for Greene County, one that is both fiscally and financially sound as well as in the best interest of public safety.

The Chamber and its over 450 member businesses eagerly await your decision and next course of action.

Sincerely,
ON BEHALF OF THE
GREENE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Friedman
President/Executive Director

Greene County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Florence Ohle – Chair
Jay Fink – Vice Chair
Mark Vinciguerra – Treasurer
Nancy Richards – Secretary
Sarah Slutzky – Immediate Past Chair
Robert Agostinoni
Nicole Bliss
Maureen Boutin
Susan Buchakian
Karen Gallo
Ryan Hastie
Ken Landin
Randy Lent
Kathleen McQuaid
Randy Squier
William Van Slyke