

Dear County Legislators,

I am part of a chorus of voices now being raised in opposition to the single jail construction being proposed for Greene County. As we have all read in the recent Daily Mail editorial; 'Why does anyone feel a compelling need to raise taxes in Greene County for the next thirty years when a viable, less expensive alternative is so close at hand'.

Adding \$55 million to our current \$13 million dollar debt make no sense.

Those of us in opposition to the proposed jail are raising this as a battle cry-no more taxes! It's a pretty simple message and one that resonates across party lines. The message is sticking. The electorate has been uninformed-but that is quickly ending. No longer will it be business as usual. This will become the issue this November.

However-the heart of the matter is about the young people. The most moving and compelling of all of the comments made at the county legislative open meeting about the bond issue and feasibility study, was made by two millennials. They moved here because taxes were reasonable, land was affordable and the Catskills were beautiful. The perfect place to start and raise a family. Now they were truly fearful-their futures ransomed by legislators that did not seem to be listening.

After two hours of moving, rational and heartfelt comments, the vote was taken-the feasibility study defeated... nothing changed-it was clear that the vote was predetermined. Their disappointment and outrage was clear. Their taxes would go up-absolutely no doubt about it!

It always comes down to people. We have an opportunity at this crossroad to forge a better future for the young people coming to our county. We need to attract them, not give them reasons not to come. It will be through their hard work and love of the area that the future of Greene County will be determined. It is time for us to listen.

Thank you,
Jonathan Gross
Maplecrest, NY

Also sent as an open letter to the Daily Mail