DATE:

The Honorable Kathy Hochul Governor of New York State NYS State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224

> RE: Bill for Signature Assembly 2025-A6918A & Senate S6664A Community Preservation Fund Town of Copake

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am writing with an urgent request that you sign legislation approved during the 2025 session to establish a Community Preservation Fund for the Town of Copake. Copake is one of the few remaining rural gems of the Hudson Valley, but the pressures upon it, which would change our fundamental character, are only growing stronger. We need this legislation in place as soon as possible, so that we may proactively take steps to preserve the farmland and cultural and historic resources which define who we are as a community. The clock is ticking for us to protect our Town. We need to move forward with establishing a Community Preservation Fund now, and can only do so with your signature. We cannot afford any more delays.

(INSERT LIVING INFORMATION: TIME SPENT IN COPAKE, ETC) I have witnessed numerous changes in the past several decades, as we moved away from being a dairy farming community to accommodating more development. To date we are still the "Land of Rural Charm", our chosen moniker, but to ensure the preservation of those features of rolling hills, open fields, small local farms and unparalleled beauty which make Copake so attractive, we need to be able to maintain, protect and defend these resources. The beauty of Copake, which attracts so many, also puts us at risk for the destruction of that beauty. To quote an old song, "You call some place paradise, kiss it goodbye." We need your signature now, so that we do not have to say goodbye to all the things that make Copake so special.

Governor Hochul we are counting on you to help us by putting the mechanism in place to care for and ensure the future of Copake as "The Land of Rural Charm. Please sign the Community Preservation Fund legislation for the Town of Copake so we can move forward. Thank you again for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,
NAME
POSITION, TITLE, IF APPLICABLE