

NEWS

RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Democratic Legislators Hammond and Harrington Speak Out Against Tax on Livestock “Emissions”

Troy—One of the more puzzling “going away” presents from soon to be former President Bush’s administration is an “advance notice of proposed rulemaking” issued by the EPA that suggests taxing farmers on the emissions from livestock. That’s right—we’re talking about a gas tax that probably none of us would have anticipated. And while the notion of imposing a tax on, how shall we put it, the by-products of digestion, initially sounds absurd, when figures in the amounts of \$175 per dairy cow and \$87.50 per head of beef cattle are mentioned, we have to take notice and think about what the impact of such regulations would be on farmers.

“This ridiculous proposal could ruin farmers in Rensselaer County,” warned Legislator Keith Hammond, who was a dairy farmer himself. “It sounds like a joke and it’s hard to take it seriously, but I’ll be following this issue because if it were acted on it would be no laughing matter.”

“We have around 10,000 dairy cows in Rensselaer County so if this proposal gets adopted, we’d really feel it. Hey, even the Troy Record came out against this tax levy on our farmers,” quipped Legislator Kevin Harrington. “I’ve sent a letter of opposition to the EPA and think President Bush should fire whoever came up with this harebrained idea. I look forward to President-elect Obama bringing logic back to government problem solving.”

Hammond and Harrington plan to introduce a resolution opposing the measure at the next legislative meeting.

District 2 Rensselaer County Democratic Minority Legislators Keith Hammond and Kevin Harrington