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February 3, 2009

Dear Board of Commissioners, Fairview Fire District:

I am one of the members of Citizens for Equitable Fire Districts of Dutchess County. I would like to read the following short note into your minutes and present a copy of our Statement of Introduction.

We have the utmost respect for Mr. Anspach, the board of commissioners, the fire chief and the firemen. **As Fairview Fire District Taxpayers, we have endured this unfair tax burden too long!** This crisis has been escalating for over twenty-five years. We believe, the Fairview Fire District board, by law # 172, could have altered the district boundaries and dealt with the "not for profits" all along, but chose not to do so.

Throughout the country, many people have become concerned over current economic conditions; in the Fairview Fire District this feeling is further magnified. Our state, county and town politicians have continued to ignore the problem. Our County Executive fails to acknowledge our crisis or meet with any other elected officials to discuss the issues. Our State Senator Steve Saland has secured millions of dollars in funds to aid many facilities including the "Walkway Over the Hudson," Marist College and others, but he has done very little to aid the Fairview Fire District. The Town of Poughkeepsie announced Thursday, 1/22/09, that it would buy Bright Horizons at Casperkill for \$4 million dollars. It is valued on the tax roles for \$8 million and would remove \$120,000 in land taxes. Yet, the Town does nothing to cure the Fairview Fire District fiasco. All our elected officials pretend they are unaware of our issues. It is truly a shame that through our petition, we must end the Fairview Fire District to get our message heard. If we give back the fire district, or "tear it down," we let everyone know, it is part their problem too! Only through this pressure can we get someone's attention. Please help our citizens find a solution!

Sincerely,

Ted Luty
Citizens for Equitable Fire Districts of Dutchess County

PS: As a final note, this is not us vs. the Board or us vs. anyone else. We have an opportunity in the law that now allows us to force our municipalities to take responsibility for a financial crisis that they have permitted to happen and must share the blame for. We urge all sides to work with us to find a solution!