

## OFFICE OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Al Krupski**  
County Legislator, First District  
Riverhead, NY



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For Immediate Release:  
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### **Legislator Krupski's Initial Legislation Protects 25 Acres of Prime Farmland**

First District Legislator Al Krupski gained the approval of the County Legislature for the purchase of the development rights of a key 25-acre farm parcel in Riverhead, a parcel that is the final piece of a more than 600-acre of contiguous preserved farmland.

The development rights for the parcel were acquired from the Riverhead School District. A Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) is a voluntary legal agreement, or conservation easement, that restricts all future non-farm development while encouraging farming and other land uses that are compatible with agriculture. PDRs allow land to stay in private ownership and on the tax rolls.

"This is critically important for the Town of Riverhead, the Riverhead School District and the County of Suffolk," said Legislator Krupski. "It insures that a block of farmland totaling more than 600 acres will continue to be used as productive farmland forever; the loss of fertile acres is irreplaceable. That is a huge boost to our agricultural economy, and means that farm families will continue to use this property now and for future generations.

"It is also a very important purchase for the Riverhead School District. The school district has substantial costs looming with renovations to its schools and this purchase provides the district with badly needed funds to help with those renovations."

"On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank Legislator Al Krupski for sponsoring, and Legislator Jay Schneiderman for co-sponsoring, this important bill," stated Riverhead School Superintendent Nancy Carney. "By having Suffolk County acquire the development rights to this parcel, we are able to ensure, in a fiscally responsible manner, that the land will be preserved as agricultural property for all time.

“The Riverhead Central School District is fortunate to have strong working relationships with elected officials, such as Mr. Krupski who assist us in accomplishing our mission to educate the students of this community in a manner that is prudent to the taxpayers.”

During the debate over the bill at the County Legislature’s meeting, Legislator Krupski pointed out the parcel was zoned for two-acre residential development. He said the development of a residential subdivision in the middle of a huge preserved farmland parcel would cause enormous problems for the farmers working the adjoining land, and for the residents of any residential subdivision.

County Executive Steve Bellone hailed the purchase and stated “Riverhead’s agricultural industry dates to the early seventeenth century and continues to play an integral role in the Suffolk County economy to this day. Preserving important and productive parcels such as these is an example of the farmland preservation program working at its best.”



Pictured left to right are Board of Education member Amelia Lanz, County Executive Steve Bellone, Legislator Al Krupski, Riverhead School Board President Ann Cotton-DeGrasse, Board of Education member Tom Carson and Riverhead School Superintendent Nancy Carney