

## Public Comment Period Closes on Hydrofracking

As the public comment period on hydrofracking of the Marcellus Shale comes to a close, many business leaders say they support fracking. The Business Council testified in October before the Assembly Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation on the revised draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on hydraulic fracturing.

"Hydraulic fracturing represents high paying jobs in a part of the state where it has suffered severely during this economic recession," said Heather Briccetti, president of the Business Council of New York State, Inc.

Bans on fracking in the Syracuse and New York City watersheds are recommended by the Department of Environmental Conservation, but not in Western New York. Opponents have expressed concern, noting past mishaps such as the Love Canal and toxic hotspots in the Great Lakes.

The New York State DEC said if it moves forward with high-volume hydraulic fracturing, it will enact the strictest standards in the nation to ensure New York's drinking water and other natural resources are protected.

## Statement on Governor Cuomo's State of the State Address

"Governor Cuomo's State of the State address shows his strong commitment to creating jobs and reviving New York's economy," said Heather C. Briccetti, Esq., president and CEO, The Business Council of New York State, Inc. "After years of overspending and overtaxing in Albany, it is clear that this Governor 'gets it.' Governor Cuomo and business leaders are on the same page when it comes to creating business opportunities, retaining skilled workers, encouraging private-sector jobs and investment, as well as reducing the cost of doing business in New York.

The Governor's continued call for spending restraint, mandate relief, health care reforms and reducing the tax burden on businesses, together with public and energy infrastructure investments and legalized casino gaming, will do a great deal to create jobs across New York.

We applaud the Governor's proposal to improve the effectiveness of an education system and create new ways to improve an aging energy infrastructure throughout the state.

We also support the Governor's plan for a Tier VI pension system, which will help control unsustainable pension costs and save state taxpayers billion of dollars in the years to come.

New York is in a stronger economic position today than we were last year due to the enactment of critical reforms backed by The Business Council, which included a 2 percent cap on the growth of property taxes, a new, permanent economic development low-cost power program and a fiscally responsible state budget. Now we need to build on that success and continue our fight to reduce the high cost of doing business in New York.

The Business Council looks forward to seeing the details on the Governor's proposals and continuing our strong working relationships with the Governor, the Senate and the Assembly."

## Leadership Announcements at The Business Council

Heather Briccetti, the acting-president and CEO of The Business Council of New York State, Inc., was recently named president and CEO. The designation came as a result of a nine-month nationwide search by a board-level search committee.

"As president I will continue to make The Business Council an even stronger voice in Albany," said Briccetti. "Our focus will continue to be on fiscal reforms that will spur private sector job growth. We will continue to work with the Governor, Senate and Assembly, as well as other pro-business organizations, to encourage investment, create jobs and lower the cost of doing business in New York State."

"Across New York, women are making tremendous progress in the world of business. I am honored to be the first woman to lead The Business Council and hope to continue our push for a more business friendly environment that respects women and the work they do to make this state a great place to do business," added Briccetti.

Ken Pokalsky, the current senior director of government affairs at The Business Council of New York State, Inc. has been named vice president of government affairs. His new position took effect on Jan. 1, 2012.

"Ken has been instrumental in pushing our organization's agenda, which is centered on job creation and economic development," said Briccetti. "Ken's wealth of experience will help us drive our pro-jobs agenda in 2012."

As vice president of government affairs, he will be responsible for overseeing the organization's overall advocacy efforts and managing the lobbying staff.

## Regional Budget and Legislative Briefings

The Business Council of New York State, Inc., will be conducting a series of regional briefings across the state on the proposed New York State Budget and 2012 Legislative session.

These briefings are being held in conjunction with major regional business groups. The briefings will provide an opportunity for business leaders to meet new Business Council President Heather C. Briccetti, Esq., and to hear about and discuss key business issues in the proposed budget and before the state legislature, and discuss political and election issues for 2012.

The regional briefing schedule and additional information is available at [www.bcnys.org](http://www.bcnys.org).

*Material from The Business Council of New York State, Inc. For more information, contact [chambers@bcnys.org](mailto:chambers@bcnys.org).*