

DRAFT LETTER

I am writing to urge you to oppose significant new environmental fees being discussed as part of superfund/brownfield legislation.

Considering current economic conditions, it is the wrong time to impose additional taxes and fees on the state's manufacturing community.

These surcharges would be on top of existing hazardous waste program fees, hazardous waste facility permit fees, and per ton "special assessments" imposed by New York on hazardous waste management activities. New York already has among the highest waste management fees in the nation, and— for nearly every affected facility — these surcharges will represent more than a doubling of their existing fees on a per ton basis.

We recognize the need to refinance the state's superfund program. But business has already paid more than its "fair share" — more than \$3 billion in directly cleanup costs, and another \$400 million in dedicated superfund fees.

Most of the state's superfund resources have been spent on municipal sites and program staff, and much of the rest is spent on abandoned sites. Therefore, we believe that refinancing should be based on general state revenues, rather than on fees that narrowly target existing state manufacturers.

In short, this fee proposal runs counter to New York's ongoing efforts to improve the state's business climate. We urge you to join in our opposition.

RECOMMENDED CONTACTS:

1. Legislative Leaders

Honorable Joseph L. Bruno
Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 909
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Honorable Owen H. Johnson
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Room 913
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Chair, Assembly Ways & Means Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 923
Albany, NY 12248

Ms. Mary Louise Mallick
Secretary, Senate Finance Committee
Room 423, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12247

Mr. Dean Fuleihan
Secretary, Assembly Ways & Means Committee
Room 346, State Capitol
Albany, New York 12248

2. Your local state legislators. To search for your local Senator and Assembly member by zip code, go to these web addresses:

Senate: <http://www.senate.state.ny.us/>
Assembly: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/>

3. The Business Council. Please also send a copy of your correspondences to The Business Council.