

Action for Jobs '06

May 23, 2006

Honorable [name]
[house]
[room]
Albany, New York [zip]

Dear [salutation]:

The New York State economy needs your help. We haven't made up the jobs lost in the last recession – while the nation is some 2 million jobs ahead. We lose an average of 200,000 New Yorkers every year, in net out-migration to other states. As 62 organizations representing more than **104,000 employers** who provide over **3.2 million jobs** in this state, we believe it's time to start turning things around.

The budget aside, here are three priorities we believe the Legislature must address if we are to make a start on improving our economy and growing jobs:

- **Kill the mandatory health coverage bills.** Health insurance is so expensive many employers can't afford to pay for it. Now there are bills to force them to pay for it anyway. This will strangle their ability to afford the employees, too. Let's make health insurance more *affordable* – not more *onerous*.
- **Make workplace safety cost-effective.** That means fixing workers' comp, and reforming Section 240/241 – the "scaffold law."
- **Adopt serious debt reform.** This year's budget proves that even in good years, New York finds it all too tempting to pile on spending by adding to the taxpayers' debt burden. Now is the time to pass the debt reforms recommended by Comptroller Hevesi.

In 2005 New York grew jobs by 0.5% — only about *one-third* the national average. We'd have 86,000 jobs more than we do today if we'd merely matched the national average for only one year. We can't afford to wait any longer. We want to work with you to address these priorities. The Legislature needs to act now.

The Business Council of NYS, Inc.
New York Farm Bureau, Inc.
National Federation of Independent Business
New York State Economic Development
Council
Retail Council of New York State
General Building Contractors
Northeast Retail Lumber Association
New York Association of Convenience Stores
Empire State Forest Products Association
New York State Hospitality & Tourism
Association
New York State Food Industry Alliance
Property Casualty Insurers Association of
America
New York Workers Compensation Action
Network
Adirondack Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Amherst Chamber of Commerce
Greater Binghamton Chamber of
Commerce
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce
Chautauqua County Chamber of
Commerce

Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce
Manufacturers Association of Central New
York
Chemung County Chamber of Commerce
Chenango County Chamber of Commerce
Columbia County Chamber of Commerce
Corning Area Chamber of Commerce
Cortland County Chamber of Commerce
Delaware County Chamber of Commerce
Greater East Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Finger Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Fulton County Regional Chamber of
Commerce & Industry
Genesee County Chamber of Commerce
Greece Chamber of Commerce
Hornell Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster Area Chamber of Commerce
Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce
Montgomery County Chamber of
Commerce
New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce
Niagara USA Chamber
Orange County Chamber of Commerce
Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce
The Otsego County Chamber

Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of
Commerce
Poughkeepsie Chamber of Commerce
Queens Chamber of Commerce
Rochester Builders Exchange
Rochester Business Alliance
Rockland Business Association
Rome Area Chamber of Commerce
Saint Lawrence County Chamber of
Commerce
Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber of Schenectady County
Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce
Seneca County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of
Commerce
The Chamber of Southern Saratoga County
Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce
Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce
Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas
Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber
of Commerce
Business Council of Westchester
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce

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Daniel B. Walsh
President & CEO
The Business Council of NYS, Inc.

Patrick Hooker
Director of Public Policy
New York Farm Bureau, Inc.

Mark Alesse, Director
National Federation of
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Brian McMahon, Executive
Director, NYS Economic
Development Council

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President & CEO
Retail Council of New York State

Jeffrey J. Zogg, Executive Director
General Building Contractors of
New York State

Aisha Tator, Mgr. of Legislative &
Regulatory Affairs, Northeastern
Retail Lumber Association

James S. Calvin, President
New York Association of
Convenience Stores

Kevin S. King, President & CEO
Empire State Forest Products
Association

Dan Murphy, President
New York State Hospitality &
Tourism Association

James Rogers, President
New York State Food Industry
Alliance

Kristina Baldwin, Regional Manager
& Counsel, Property Casualty
Insurers Association of America

Larry Gilroy, Chairman
New York Workers
Compensation Action Network

Todd L. Shimkus, President &
CEO, Adirondack Regional
Chambers of Commerce

Colleen DiPirro
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Amherst Chamber of Commerce

Alex DePersis, President & CEO
Greater Binghamton Chamber
of Commerce

Andrew J. Rudnick
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Terri Bridenbecker, Executive
Director, Cayuga County Chamber
of Commerce

Pamela Lydic, President & CEO
Chautauqua County Chamber
of Commerce

Debra Liegl, President & CEO
Cheektowaga Chamber of
Commerce

Randy Wolken, President
Manufacturers Association of
Central New York

Kevin Keeley, President & CEO
Chemung County Chamber of
Commerce

Dave Hall, President & CEO
Chenango County Chamber of
Commerce

David Colby, President
Columbia County Chamber of
Commerce

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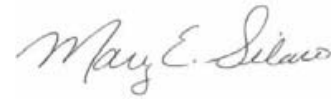
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Coleen Fabrizi, President
Corning Area Chamber of
Commerce



Garry VanGorder, Executive
Director, Cortland County
Chamber of Commerce



Mary Beth Silano, Executive
Director, Delaware County
Chamber of Commerce



Ann Meagher, President & CEO
Greater Southern Dutchess
Chamber of Commerce



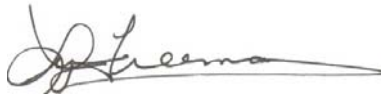
Gary Grote, Executive Director
Greater East Aurora Chamber of
Commerce



Mike Linehan, President & CEO
Finger Lakes Chamber of
Commerce



G. Wallace Hart, President
Fulton Co. Regional Chamber of
Commerce & Industry



Lynn Freeman, President
Genesee County Chamber of
Commerce



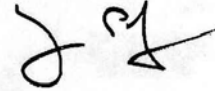
Carlos Mercado
President & CEO
Greece Chamber of Commerce



James Griffin
President
Hornell Chamber of Commerce



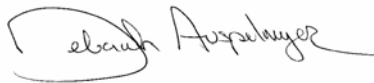
Kathy Konst, President & CEO
Lancaster Area Chamber of
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Manhattan Chamber of
Commerce



Matthew Stuble, President
Mohawk Valley Chamber of
Commerce



Deborah Auspemyer, President
Montgomery County Chamber of
Commerce



Joyce Minard, President
New Paltz Regional Chamber of
Commerce



Thomas J. Kraus
President & CEO
Niagara USA Chamber



John D'Ambrosio, President
Orange County Chamber of
Commerce



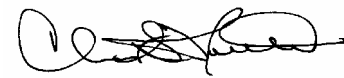
Nancy Conley, Executive Director,
Orchard Park Chamber of
Commerce



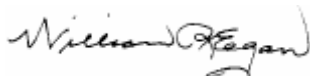
Rob Robinson
President & CEO
The Otsego County Chamber



Garry F. Douglas, President
Plattsburgh-North Country
Chamber of Commerce



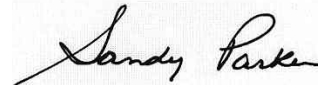
Charles S. North, President & CEO,
Poughkeepsie Chamber of
Commerce



William R. Egan
Executive Vice President
Queens Chamber of Commerce



Aaron Hilger
President
Builders Exchange of Rochester



Sandra A. Parker
Chief Executive Officer
Rochester Business Alliance

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Al Samuels
President & CEO
Rockland Business Association



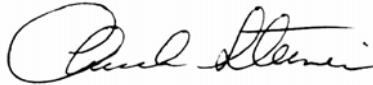
William K. Guglielmo, President
Rome Area Chamber of
Commerce




Karen St. Hilaire, CEO
Saint Lawrence County Chamber
of Commerce



Sylvie Nelson, Executive Director
Saranac Lake Area Chamber of
Commerce



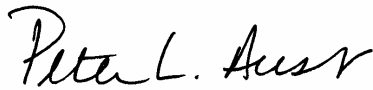
Charles Steiner, President
The Chamber of Schenectady
County



James Batsford, Executive Director
Schoharie County Chamber of
Commerce



Dominic Christopher, Executive
Director, Seneca County
Chamber of Commerce



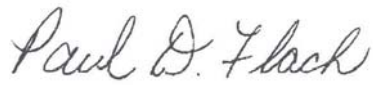
Peter Aust, President & CEO
The Chamber of Southern
Saratoga County



Darlene Kerr, President
Greater Syracuse Chamber of
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Jean McPheeters, President
Tompkins County Chamber of
Commerce



Paul Flach, Executive Director
Chamber of Commerce of the
Tonawandas



Karen K. Delmonico, President &
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Country Chamber of Commerce



Marsha Gordon
President & CEO
Business Council of Westchester



James Pierce, Executive Director
Wyoming County Chamber of
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