



Monroe County Legislature

TED O'BRIEN
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 17

TED O'BRIEN
LEGISLATOR-DISTRICT 17
120 THURLOW AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14609
OFFICE: (585) 753-1940
HOME: (585) 654-9397
E-MAIL: cobrien@harrischsworth.com

January 8, 2007

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: **Memorializing the New York State Senate and Assembly
to Support "Renew New York"**

Honorable Legislators:

In recent years, the economy of upstate New York has suffered. The region significantly lags behind the rest of the state and the rest of the country in many economic indicators. Between 1990 and 2004, jobs grew nationally by 21 percent. However, in New York State, in areas north and west of Rockland and Putnam counties, there has only been a three percent job growth. As a result, in the last decade the amount of people in the region between ages 25 and 34 has declined by about 30 percent. Rochester's population has gone down 3.8 percent since 2000. To make matters worse, the middle class has seen many tax increases, specifically property taxes.

Newly elected Governor Eliot Spitzer has proposed several reforms aimed at helping Upstate New York's economy, also known as the "Renew New York" plan. Governor Spitzer has already received encouraging words about his proposal from both Democratic and Republican legislators throughout the state. One plan component is to implement a \$6 billion property tax cut over three years that would focus on the middle class. Among his other reforms, Spitzer includes:

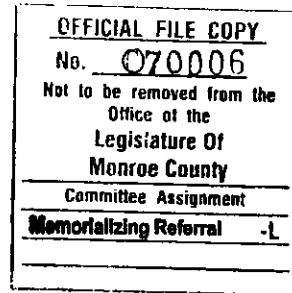
- Designating an upstate chairperson of the Empire State Development Corp. (ESDC) and opening an upstate headquarters, as well as expanding state aid to distressed upstate cities and towns.
- Reforming state mandates.
- Launching a universal broadband initiative to provide all of upstate with affordable, high-speed internet service.
- Developing new infrastructure projects.
- Fixing the state's Brownfield program.

- Implementing a plan that promotes outdoor activities and tourism.
- Convening an emergency preparedness summit of state and local officials.
- Expanding aid to upstate schools.

These projects would help revitalize the upstate New York economy and help keep and grow jobs in Monroe County. We are pleased that Governor Spitzer has made Upstate New York's economy a priority, and we believe this plan will bring economic prosperity to Upstate New York.

Therefore, we urge you to join us in memorializing the New York State Senate and Assembly to work with Gov. Spitzer in passing provisions of the "Renew New York" plan that will help revive the upstate New York economy.

Respectfully submitted,



Carla M. Palumbo
Carla M. Palumbo
Democratic Leader

Ted O'Brien
Ted O'Brien
Legislator - District 17

Calvin Lee, Jr.
Calvin Lee, Jr.
Assistant Democratic Leader

Travis R. Heider
Travis R. Heider
Legislator - District 14

Stephanie Polowe Aldersley
Stephanie Polowe Aldersley
Legislator - District 16

Carrie M. Andrews
Carrie M. Andrews
Legislator - District 21

Paul E. Haney
Paul E. Haney
Legislator - District 23

Willie J. Lightfoot
Willie J. Lightfoot
Legislator - District 27