

In Support Of The Continuation Of The New York State Empire Zones Program

Legislators Aiello, Cummings, Dart, Donaldson, Fabiano, Felicello, Gerentine, Hansut, Harris, Lomita, Loughran, Maloney, Noonan, Petit, Provenzano, Roberti, Roberts, Ronk and Terrizzi offer the following:

WHEREAS, the economic stability and sustainability of our local economy is a vital concern to the residents and businesses of Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, Ulster County is desirous of a balanced economy existing of a wide range of various types of business, industry, tourism and recreation, and

WHEREAS, the County of Ulster is cognizant of the need for additional commercial and industrial growth to attain such economic stability and sustainability, and

WHEREAS, the tax revenue generated by businesses throughout Ulster County and the State of New York provide much needed relief to the individual taxpayers and their families, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Empire Zone program has been a proven stimulus in the growth and revitalization of weakened local economies throughout New York State, and

WHEREAS, local Zone Administrators, in localities as diverse as is Ulster County, have a more comprehensive and detailed understanding of the uniqueness of areas such as ours, these local Administrative Boards are in the best position to administer local Zones and should continue to do so, and

WHEREAS, the Kingston/Ulster Empire Zone in Ulster County, established in 1994, has a long record of facilitating new job growth with 5,268 employees employed by 211 certified businesses and new capital investments totaling over \$351 million over 14 years, by providing local technical assistance to Empire Zone Certified Businesses within Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, the Kingston/Ulster Empire Zone continues economic development efforts and thus the attraction of new businesses and jobs for the people of Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Empire Zone program has shown great promise for the economy of Ulster County both in piquing the interest of prospective businesses inquiring from outside of Ulster County and New York State and in assisting local companies to prepare for growth, and

Resolution No. 131 April 7, 2009

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WHEREAS, the New York State Empire Zone program has a planned sunset date of June 30, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget makes sweeping changes to the Empire Zone program that may lead to litigation, company relocation and loss of credibility of New York's economic development efforts, and

WHEREAS, increasing New York's already high cost of doing business by raising business fees and taxes, significantly cutting the state's business development budget and undermining the credibility of our economic development efforts would make New York less competitive, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Kingston/Ulster Empire Zone Administrative Board, in anticipation of great success and promise for new job creation within its Empire Zone, hereby requests the State of New York to continue its Empire Zone stimulus program beyond 2011 to June 30, 2017, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the New York State Legislature, in an effort to maintain continuity and to stimulate a positive momentum, is encouraged to enact legislation that will make the Empire Zone program less bureaucratic, less complex, more targeted and less costly, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that New York's economic development incentive programs exist to offset the sting of one of the nation's most unattractive business climates and if tax and regulatory reform were enacted, New York would not need such programs, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State lawmakers, as they work on the state budget, are encouraged to make every effort to avoid adding more burdens to employers, whether through taxes, fees, wage mandates or regulations, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Kingston/Ulster Empire Zone hereby enlists the support of each and every Zone municipality in the State of New York in an effort to maintain the continued operation and stimuli that the New York State Empire Zone program offers, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, New York State Comptroller's Office, Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith, Senate Minority Leader Dean G.

Resolution No. 131 April 7, 2009

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Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez, Frank K. Skartados and the New York State Association of Counties,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 26 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Aiello, Dart, Maloney,
Provenzano, Roberts, Shapiro and Stoeckeler)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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