

Supporting Statewide Reform Of Industrial Development Agencies

The Economic Development, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Rodriguez and Legislators Berardi, Gregorius, Loughran, Sheeley, Alfonso and Roberti) offers the following:

WHEREAS, Industrial Development Agencies are an important economic development tool to promote job creation and retention in our communities and are the main source of economic development subsidies at the local and County level, and

WHEREAS, when Industrial Development Agencies do not use taxpayer dollars effectively, they fail to provide a good return on public investments, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure that businesses receiving financial assistance through Industrial Development Agencies provide quality jobs and services to local communities as these communities are sacrificing needed tax revenue, and

WHEREAS, portions of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law governing the operations of Industrial Development Agencies are scheduled to sunset this year, and

WHEREAS, the expiring of these provisions provides an opportunity to strengthen the accountability of Industrial Development Agencies to taxpayers, local governments and school districts.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature supports state reform of Industrial Development Agencies that will:

- mandate basic wage and benefits, community and environmental standards for companies receiving financial assistance from Industrial Development Agencies.
- upholds enforcement of claw back penalties for businesses that do not meet agreed upon job retention and creation goals.
- gives the public greater input in Industrial Development Agency projects through public hearings and Community Impact Reports.
- increases the transparency of Industrial Development Agencies by giving the public access to IDA tax exemption policy and current schedule of PILOT payments.
- increases accountability to taxpayers by mandating diverse community representation on boards of Industrial Development Agencies and the approval of governing bodies of affected tax jurisdictions on IDA projects.

Resolution No. 141 April 11, 2006

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 31 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Aiello and Sheeley)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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