

NEW YORK'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING ISN'T A MAJORITY OR MINORITY ISSUE

Albany has witnessed an unprecedented level of uncertainty in recent days. Businesses and workers across New York State are facing more than their own fair share of economic uncertainty. Increased taxes, rising unemployment and skyrocketing business costs have created huge challenges for New York's business community. Significant questions about the future direction of the state's economy remain. With numerous bills under consideration – some good, some bad, and some potentially catastrophic – The Business Council urges the Legislature to come together in making the right choices for job creation and economic recovery.

VOTE NO ON POTENTIALLY JOB KILLING PROPOSALS

The following bills would increase costly mandates and regulations that burden New York's private sector. While these proposals may be well-intentioned, they will ultimately be counterproductive and hurt the very workers they purport to help:

A.3659/S.1241 - A bill to require that "prevailing wages" -- essentially, union scale -- be paid on all Industrial Development Agency projects. The measure would render worthless this job-creating financing method, because projects would cost too much.

A.8742/S.5791 - A bill to require New York employers to provide paid family leave -- through an enhanced insurance benefit -- for workers who care for family members in certain situations. New York would be one of only four states with such a requirement, harming our competitiveness.

A.8100 - A bill that would substantially raise the unemployment-insurance tax to pay for increased benefits. New York's employers paid \$2.3 billion in unemployment-insurance taxes in 2008, a total that would rise by nearly 15 percent in a single year under the legislation.

A.8280/S.5470 (Governor's Program Bill #15) – A bill that would restore the "prior approval" process for adjusting health insurance premium rates, giving the Superintendent of Insurance complete discretion and expanded authority over rate changes without regard to the underlying cost drivers of premiums.

A.8646/S.5768 - A bill that would extend the unlimited power of the Martin Act to the plaintiff's bar which would significantly increase the legal exposure of the business community and irreparably harm the New York State economy.

VOTE YES FOR JOB STABILITY AND JOB CREATION

Now is no time to create more obstacles to private-sector job growth in New York State. Instead, we should advance plans to assure job stability and accelerate job creation through the following proposals:

A.5700/S.2898 – Renews and makes permanent the ability of IDA's to fund "civic facilities" projects, such as not-for-profit health care, education and housing facilities, which would allow upwards of \$2 billion in planned projects to move forward.

A.8803/S.5598A – Would assure continuation of Empire Zone benefits to businesses that have met their legal obligations and have made significant investments and added jobs in the state; and would assure that businesses would not lose tax credits earned in prior tax years.

S.5839 - Extends the Power for Jobs and Economic Development Power programs for another year, through June 30, 2010; these programs help reduce the cost of electric power for hundreds of energy intensive businesses across New York State, and help retain business and jobs in New York State.

A.8632A/S.5787 - Help the economy by passing the Wine Industry and Liquor Store Revitalization Act.

Job creation isn't a majority or minority issue, so please vote yes for New York's long term economic well-being.



The Business Council

The Business Council of New York State, Inc., is the primary advocacy group for business in New York State, supported by more than 3,000 Business Council members and their approximately 1 million employees, the Chamber Alliance of New York State with its 63,000 members and millions of employees. We serve our members' interests, and promote the economic health of the state of New York, by:

- ◆ Representing the business community before the legislative and executive branches of New York State government.
- ◆ Providing information on the state's economic needs to the news media, opinion leaders, and a wide segment of the general public.
- ◆ Helping our members understand and deal with state government policies and programs that will have an impact on their businesses.

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