



SENATOR JIM ALESI

Community Update: Week Ending 3/05/10



Regional Approach to Wind Farms

Recently there has been renewed interest in wind energy development in New York State, and while I encourage, and support, alternative forms of renewable energy, increasingly municipalities across the state are being pressured by national or international energy firms to site and permit wind-generating facilities within their jurisdiction.

Again, while I encourage alternative forms of energy, our towns cannot – and must not – be pitted against one another because of New York's current policies regarding the siting and permitting of wind farms. The present town-by-town approach, where nearby residents may be negatively impacted by a wind farm (of a dozen or so wind turbines, each standing 200-400 feet tall) built in a neighboring municipality must be changed.

I have introduced legislation (S.785-A) that would establish a task force on wind-generating facilities' siting and permitting policies. By establishing a comprehensive, state-wide plan for siting and permitting wind-generating facilities, and by looking at the placement of wind farms on a region-by-region approach, rather than the current patchwork approach, energy firms, municipalities, and residents will all benefit.

Honorary Chairman for Bivona Child Advocacy Center

I was extremely delighted to serve as Honorary Chairman for this year's Open the Bottle Night for Bivona Child Advocacy Center. I have been a strong advocate for Bivona through the years, and commend the Center for its ongoing commitment to providing children victimized by sexual abuse a safe haven and new beginning.

Held last Saturday, this year's event raised a record level of donations from benefactors and supporters, one of which was Mike Dinardo who was awarded the Teddy Bear Mascot Tie for his significant contributions and efforts on behalf of the Center.

Introduction of Job-Creation Legislation

Earlier this week, to provide the necessary framework for budget negotiations on economic development, I co-authored legislation (S.6959) designed to promote job creation and improve New York's business climate.

Recent proposals by Governor Paterson and Democratic leaders seek to balance our multi-billion dollar budget deficit by overtaxing and overregulating businesses. Last year, to pay for Governor Paterson's 10% increase in state spending, \$3.6 billion of new taxes and fees were imposed on New York's businesses by Democratic leaders.

To the contrary, the simplicity of my legislation is also its strength: I am confident that if our state's businesses were given incentives and the ability to grow in New York, and then left alone, thousands of good-paying jobs would be created, and our economy would flourish.

As Ranking Member on the Senate Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business Committee, and as a former small business owner myself, I am familiar with the many challenges that face our state's business community. To spark job creation and economic growth for New York's businesses, S.6959 would provide tax credits to businesses that create jobs, eliminate the state corporate franchise tax for small businesses, and roll back the personal income tax surcharge imposed on small businesses last year.

I am proud to have the support of both The Business Council of New York State, and the National Federation of Independent Business, two of New York's leading advocacy associations.

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