



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## License Plate Plan Lands On Scrap Heap

James L. Seward

November 16, 2009

ALBANY, 11/16/09 – Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I-Oneonta) today hailed the governor’s decision to drop plans requiring New York motorists to purchase new license plates in April at a cost of \$25 per vehicle.

**“I have been fighting the license plate scheme since it was first uncovered in the budget proposal earlier this year,”** said Senator Seward. **“More than 8,000 people in the 51st district joined me in the battle by signing my on-line petition and offering a resounding NO to the government cash grab. I am pleased that together, we can declare victory in this fight.”**

The license plate replacement plan requires motorists to purchase new plates over a two year period beginning April 1, 2010, as their registrations come due. New plates will cost each vehicle owner an extra \$25 and generate a total of \$130 million in revenue for the state. The new plate requirement was included in the 2009-10 state budget and is in addition to the increase in driver’s license and motor vehicle fees that took effect September 1, 2009.

**“Reversing the license plate plan puts us on the right road to dealing with the state’s fiscal issues,”** Seward continued. **“Capping state spending, enacting commonsense cuts and boosting economic development must also be part of the overall strategy.**

**“My colleagues and I in the senate have offered a number of alternative proposals to help balance the state budget without laying the burden on upstate families, businesses and local governments. I am hopeful the governor will examine these options and consider rolling back other taxes and fees included in the record spending state budget,”** Seward concluded.

County clerks from across the state held their own campaign against the license plate replacement plan collecting over 100,000 signatures in opposition.