



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

William T. Stachowski

Stachowski Reacts to State of the State Message

WILLIAM T. STACHOWSKI January 6, 2010

| COMMITTEE: **COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS**

STACHOWSKI REACTS TO STATE OF THE STATE MESSAGE

Senator William T. Stachowski (D-C, Lake View) said that he anticipates a fresh start to this new legislative session upon viewing the 2010 State of the State Message issued today by Governor David Paterson.

“This was a difficult year with an historic budget deficit that created complex problems for our state,” said Senator Stachowski. “While we are still dealing with these very serious challenges, I was pleased to hear the Governor’s proposals on budget and ethics reform. A budget deficit of the magnitude we just faced and could be facing again this year affects every New Yorker. It is only through structural changes to the budget and conscientious and realistic cuts that the state can get its fiscal footing back.

“New Yorkers’ priorities are simple: they want more jobs, lower taxes, and a government that keeps our state affordable. It will be our responsibility to put the taxpayers’ needs above all else. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business,

my own focus will be to bring more jobs to New York, and especially to Western New York, control spending, and pass property tax relief for our struggling families. By changing the way the budget is proposed, negotiated, and implemented we can ultimately bring this relief to our hardworking families.

“I was pleased that the Governor spoke about affordable housing in Buffalo. Truly, we are facing a vacant housing crisis in our city that needs urgently to be addressed. I was also pleased to hear the Governor speak about the manufacturing industry and the Small Business Task Force of which I am a member, in addition to the Power For Jobs Program and the Excelsior Jobs Program as a replacement for the current Empire Zones Program. As a strong supporter of these initiatives, I look forward to working with the Governor in reshaping this program to best serve the business community. I was encouraged that the Governor mentioned the importance of research and development in our public and private universities. This is exactly what my U.B. 2020 economic growth plan would do in terms of saving taxpayers money and keeping us competitive with other state systems and public research universities, and I welcome the Governor's support in this effort for the University of Buffalo.

While I believe Governor Paterson recognizes the special needs of upstate New York, I had hoped there would have been more in-depth discussion of reducing homeowners' property taxes. This is upstate's number one priority and will continue to be one of my main goals this year. Providing homeowners with more relief from skyrocketing property taxes is the most important thing we can do. I am encouraged about the prospects this new year can bring and look forward to the tremendous

achievements I know we can make.”