



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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Senate Republicans Defeat Anti-Economic Bill Pushed by Democrats and Opposed by State's Leading Business Groups

ANDREW J LANZA April 21, 2010

| ISSUE: **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Legislation would block economic development, lead to explosion in frivolous lawsuits

Senate Republicans defeated anti-economic development legislation (S1635), sponsored by Senator Antoine Thompson of Buffalo, that would shut down virtually all economic development activity in New York, increase the number of frivolous lawsuits and even put up an obstacle to sound environmental projects throughout the State.

The bill was opposed by the State's leading business groups, including NFIB, the Long Island Builders Association, the New York State Association of Realtors, the New York State Builders Association and Unshackle Upstate.

Under the legislation, any individual would be given the ability to sue to stop an environmental project they believe poses public harm, regardless of whether they would otherwise have standing to sue.

"I am pleased to have led the opposition to this bill as it would have put up additional barriers to economic development and job creation in Buffalo and Western New York. If Democrats would have been successful in passing this legislation, they should just put up signs that say 'New York is Closed for Business.' This is further evidence that Democrats don't understand what needs to be done to help Upstate taxpayers and their families," Senator Michael Ranzenhofer (R,C,I-Amherst).

"In last year's disastrous State budget, Democrats hit businesses with \$3.6 billion in tax hikes, and this legislation shows their agenda continues to be hostile to businesses throughout this State," Senate Republican Leader Dean G. Skelos said.

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