



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

O'Mara: Time to also start looking ahead to priorities of post-coronavirus government: Advancing a 'Reopen and Reset' strategy for upstate regions

THOMAS F. O'MARA May 5, 2020

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Elmira, N.Y., May 5—State Senator Tom O'Mara (R,C,I-Big Flats) and his Senate Republican colleagues announced this week that they will be putting forth a "Reopen and Reset"

strategy for the upstate regions they represent.

While Governor Andrew Cuomo continues to focus on plans for the calibrated, short-term reopening of local economies along regional boundaries, O'Mara and his colleagues want to also begin setting rebuilding priorities for post-coronavirus government in New York State throughout the coming year and into the foreseeable future.

O'Mara, whose 58th Senate District covers most of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions, said that he and other state Senate Republicans are discussing and developing strategies for upstate's post-coronavirus communities and economies focusing on several cornerstones including the steady rebuilding of increasing numbers of economic sectors, regulatory and tax reform, and mandate relief, among others.

O'Mara said, "Right now we are witnessing state government by executive order and that will need to change as soon as possible. I have stressed throughout the ongoing COVID-19 response that we also need to be ready, once we weather this storm, to start an open and full discussion on the best ways to move forward for this entire state, upstate and downstate. It is going to require a restructuring of New York government, strengthening the state-local partnership, and getting back to work rebuilding New York with the right priorities, long-overdue commonsense reform, and fiscal responsibility. I look forward to continuing to join my Senate Republican colleagues throughout the weeks and months ahead to put forth strategies and work to ensure that our upstate regions don't get left behind in the unprecedented rebuilding and restructuring effort that we're facing."

One action O'Mara and his colleagues would like New York State to take immediately is to align the businesses on the Empire State Development Corporation's (ESD) "essential business" designation with that of the federal government's essential businesses list. They argue that this move to more directly align New York's reopening with the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) "Opening Up America Again" guidelines would allow more small

businesses, industries, and manufacturers to reopen safely.