

SENATOR JIM ALESÌ LEGISLATIVE REPORT



2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION A SUCCESS

Dear Neighbor,

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, I am encouraged by the incredible progress that the State Legislature and Governor Andrew Cuomo have made since the beginning of this new Legislative Session. This year was one of the most successful Sessions in recent history. Partnering with Governor Cuomo and Lt. Governor Bob Duffy, we passed an on-time Budget that closed a \$10 billion deficit without raising taxes, and secured a property tax cap that will relieve hardworking, overburdened taxpayers in New York. Both the Budget and property tax cap have given state government credibility that will help move New York – especially Monroe County – in a positive direction toward economic growth, job creation and prosperity. With what was accomplished in six historic months, New York State is once again, "Open for Business."

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".



ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

June 29, 2011

The Honorable James Alesi
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 512
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Alesi:

Please accept my congratulations on the magnificent accomplishments of the 234th Session of the New York State Legislature.

I am grateful for your leadership and cooperation in passing historic reforms that will benefit all New Yorkers. Working together, we achieved a balanced, on-time budget. We brought property tax relief to homeowners, strengthened our State's rent laws, empowered SUNY to be an engine of economic growth, and began the important work of mandate relief. And we passed marriage equality, re-establishing New York as a progressive leader in this nation once again.

The historic ethics reforms of this Session will be a lasting legacy of our collective effort to restore integrity, performance, and public confidence back to New York State government.

Our work has just begun. We must seize this momentum and continue to make our government as good as the great people of our Empire State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew M. Cuomo".

ANDREW M. CUOMO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thank you!".





2011 STATE BUDGET



Moving New York in the Right Direction

Senator Alesi is a former small business owner who has brought real experience and common sense to several of this year's top economic initiatives – most importantly, the 2011 State Budget. As Chairman of the Joint Budget Conference Committee on Economic Development, Senator Alesi was the prime architect of many key proposals included in final budget negotiations. The Senator's report became the blueprint for an historic State Budget that reduces government spending, cuts the deficit without raising taxes, removes crippling, job-killing regulations on New York's small businesses, and lays the foundation for New York State's economic recovery.

Reduce Spending

The State Budget reduced year-to-year spending by 2% and trimmed state operations by 10%, forcing every area of state government to increase efficiency and maximize performance.

Cut Taxes

The State Budget closed a \$10 billion deficit without raising taxes and eliminated a personal income tax surcharge, providing \$700 million in tax relief this year and \$3.4 billion next year.

Create Jobs

The State Budget expanded opportunities for businesses and manufacturers to receive tax credits for job creation through the Excelsior Jobs Program and reduce energy costs through Recharge NY.

Regional Approach to Economic Development

Working with Lt. Governor Bob Duffy, Senator Alesi put forth recommendations to create 10 Economic Regional Councils. Centered in Rochester, the Finger Lakes Council will work with the the state to eliminate unnecessary barriers to growth and prosperity, streamline the delivery of government services and programs, and stimulate economic development and job creation in Monroe County and neighboring counties. The Co-Chairs for the Finger Lakes Council are Danny Wegman, CEO for Wegmans Food Markets and Joel Seligman, President of the University of Rochester. Under their leadership, the Finger Lakes Council will emphasize our area's unique assets, develop plans for projects, and prioritize proposals that may be eligible for \$1 billion in state funding.



SENATOR JIM ALESİ: CHAIR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Introduced by Senator Alesi, Landmark Legislation to Become Law

Recertification of New York's Certified Capital Law (S.5587-C) ~ will help businesses in New York State to receive capital that is not available from traditional commercial banks. To boost our economy, S.5587-C authorizes New York to license certified capital companies to raise \$150 million in private venture capital from insurance companies, which would then be invested in qualified businesses, emphasizing viable, smaller businesses which traditionally have had difficulty in attracting institutional venture capital. In exchange, the certified capital company will receive premium tax credits. Created over a decade ago, this would be the sixth time the Certified Capital program is recertified.

Establishment of the Innovate NY Fund (S.5782) ~ introduced in consultation with Empire State Development, S.5782 would revive New York's Capital Access Program by strengthening the statute governing its function, providing for new funding to assist small businesses, and enhancing the climate for lending in traditional and alternative financial institutions. This bill would also establish the Innovate NY Fund that would leverage federal funding by providing monies to entities, including regional and local economic development organizations, technology development organizations, research universities and investment funds, which would use the funding to make seed-stage investments in New York State small businesses.

Senator Alesi Nationally Recognized as "Champion of Small Business"

At the annual National Conference of State Legislatures, Senator Alesi was honored with the prestigious "Champion of Small Business" award sponsored by the National Coalition for Capital. Award recipients are recognized for demonstrating leadership in supporting policies and initiatives designed to promote access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs. This year, legislation introduced by Senator Alesi to provide nearly \$200 million in capital funds to small businesses through all stages of development – prestart-up, start-up, expansion, or survival – was signed into law by Governor Cuomo.



Ken Adams Appointed President of Empire State Development

Senator Alesi is fully vested in improving New York's economy, and is firmly committed to working with the Cuomo-Duffy team to strengthen our small businesses and spur job growth in our communities. That is why he was proud to support the appointment of Ken Adams as President and CEO of the Economic State Development Corporation (ESDC). As former President and CEO of The Business Council of New York State, Ken and Senator Alesi have had a strong history of working together for the benefit of New York's small businesses, which both agree are the engines of job creation and growth.



Senator Alesi presided over Ken Adams' confirmation hearing in April. As Chairman of Economic Development, Senator Alesi works closely with Mr. Adams and officials at ESDC.

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SENATOR
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PROPERTY TAX CAP SIGNED INTO LAW



Too many of us have had friends or relatives forced to leave New York State because of increasing property taxes. Not only have homeowners suffered greatly, but businesses have suffered too, and high property taxes have made doing business in New York – especially in Upstate – less desirable than in other states, deepening our economic recession and preventing job creation.

After passing an on-time budget that closed a \$10 billion deficit without raising taxes, my top legislative priority this Session was to pass a property tax cap for all New Yorkers, from young families to retired seniors, business owners to laborers. Working closely with Governor Cuomo, we enacted one of the strongest property tax caps in the nation – the law will place a cap on the growth of local government and school property taxes at two percent (2%), or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is less – and I am confident that this legislation will move New York State in the right direction and on the path to economic recovery.

In July, I welcomed Governor Cuomo to the Irondequoit home of Mike and Amanda Ostrander, where the Governor signed a copy of the historic property tax cap legislation. Like all New Yorkers, the Ostrandersons' pay nearly double what the average American pays in annual property taxes, and the property tax cap will bring much needed relief to millions of hardworking, overburdened taxpayers like you and me.