



SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE  
48TH DISTRICT  
OSWEGO, JEFFERSON, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

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October 16, 2014

Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor  
Executive Chamber  
The Capitol  
Albany, NY 12225

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Since its launch, the Taste NY initiative has been successful in not only highlighting New York food, drink and other products, but also in helping to provide a boost to our state's hardworking farmers. I applaud you for your efforts and request that as you work to expand Taste NY and look for strategic locations to place retail stores, you consider placing a retail location on I-81 at the now-closed rest area in the Oswego County Town of Hastings.

Heavily traveled by local residents as well as a significant number of Canadian shoppers going to and from Syracuse, I-81 would be a great location for featuring items grown and produced locally including wine, craft beer, maple syrup, fresh produce such as apples and onions, dairy products and so much more. Reopening the Hastings rest area—which is located between exits 32 and 31 and has sat vacant since 2010—and adding a Taste NY retail store would provide a place for drivers to take a break during long stretches of travel or inclement weather, welcome visitors and serve to feature locally grown and produced items.

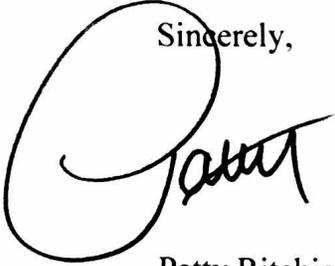
**REPLY TO:**  **ALBANY OFFICE:** ROOM 412 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 (518) 455-3438  
 **JEFFERSON COUNTY OFFICE:** 317 WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM 418, WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601 (315) 782-3418  
 **OSWEGO COUNTY OFFICE:** 46 EAST BRIDGE STREET, FIRST FLOOR, OSWEGO, NEW YORK 13126 (315) 342-2057  
 **ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE:** 330 FORD STREET, OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK 13669 (315) 393-3024

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**WEBSITE:** WWW.RITCHIE.NYSenate.GOV



I respectfully request that as you develop plans for new Taste NY retail stores, you keep the region I represent in mind. Again, thank you for your work to promote and grow agriculture in New York State. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Ritchie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P" that loops around the start of the name.

Patty Ritchie  
State Senator

PAR:svc