

NEW YORK

STATE  
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



April 14, 2010

Honorable John Sampson  
New York State Senator  
Room 409 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247

Honorable Sheldon Silver  
Speaker of the Assembly  
Room 932 LOB  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Leader Sampson and Speaker Silver,

We are currently past the end of the State fiscal year and despite significant efforts, still some distance from a negotiated budget agreement.

A few weeks ago, the Senate and the Assembly marked the formal start of the joint budget conference committee process by passing budget resolutions in each house. However, despite the declared intentions on all sides, to date, there has only been one conference committee meeting at the leadership level.

We are respectfully requesting conference committees begin immediately. We must begin the work of mitigating the differences between the various budget proposals. We believe the conference committee process is the appropriate and necessary vehicle for that dialogue.

Additionally, it is our hope the full scale up of the conference committee process will induce the Minority conferences to disclose their proposals for addressing one of the worst fiscal crises our State has seen to date.

We find it regretful the Senate Minority has said much about the budget process, but despite the critical imperative to find a fair, responsible path out of this deficit and a stagnant economy, has yet to offer any real suggestions or proposals for inclusion or consideration as each house struggles to weigh difficult choices and make necessary spending cuts.

Honorable John Sampson  
Honorable Sheldon Silver  
April 14, 2010  
Page 2

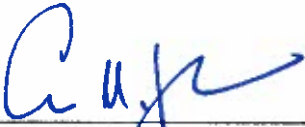
We must seriously intensify the dialogue on addressing the current deficit. We seek to get into the difficult work of negotiations.

We look forward to working with you to begin the conference committee process immediately. We and all New Yorkers seek closure to the crisis.


Sincerely,

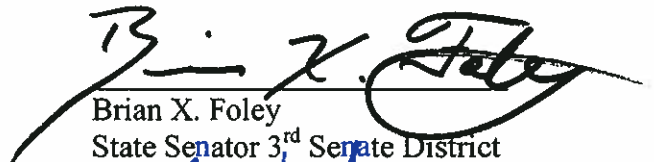


Darrel J. Aubertine  
State Senator 48<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Craig M. Johnson  
State Senator 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District

  
William Stachowski  
State Senator 58<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Brian X. Foley  
State Senator 3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District



David J. Valesky  
State Senator 49<sup>th</sup> Senate District