

KEVIN S. PARKER
SENATOR, 21ST DISTRICT

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July 15, 2010

Hon. David A. Paterson
Governor
Executive Chamber
Albany NY 12247

Dear Honorable David Paterson:

It is with alarm and concern that I am write you regarding the drastic budget cuts to the division of Kosher Law Enforcement. As you know, after the State of Israel, New York is the largest producer and consumer of Kosher products, and the existence of a strong Kosher Law Enforcement Division (KLE) is key to the strength of this important industry.

I urge you strongly to reconsider your action. Cutting the KLE's budget will have a detrimental effect on the quality of life for New York State's approximately 1.6 million kosher consumers, and it will undermine the health of an industry that generates jobs and revenue for New Yorkers. Furthermore, as the elected representative of the 21st New York Senatorial District, I find it most disconcerting that my constituents who observe Kosher dietary laws, or who follow vegetarian or Halal diets, will be deprived of the consumer protection laws that the community has enjoyed for almost 100 years.

The Kosher Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Agriculture and Markets provides an invaluable service to those who entrust the State to enforce its laws pertaining to the preparation of Kosher food. It is imperative that we continue to provide the residents of New York State, and our Kosher industry's customers in other states, with the critically important initiatives that this department provides. There are more than 14 million regular kosher consumers, and approximately \$40 billion is being spent on all kosher certified products. New York's immense share of the kosher industry is bolstered by its effective and respected Kosher Law Enforcement Department.

I urge you, respectfully, to reconsider the elimination of this vital service that the State of New York provides for its Kosher consumers.

Yours in Partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin Parker'.

KEVIN PARKER