



March 2, 2011

Dear Assembly Speaker Silver;

With broad bipartisan support from legislators of every region of the state, the Senate has passed "UB2020" – critical legislation originally drafted by the Democratic Conference in 2009, which will fundamentally alter the economic development landscape of Western New York and apply a rational tuition policy for the University at Buffalo.

It's now time for Senators and Assembly Members to work together to guide this UB2020 through the legislative process and deliver it to Governor Cuomo for his signature, this year.

We believe that with the exception of this year's State Budget, there is no legislation more important for Western New York. And while we recognize some concerns remain, these are concerns we want to address, with your help.

The benefits of this program are significant; it is estimated that UB2020 will generate 10,000 new long-term jobs in the Buffalo region, and create 25,000 additional construction jobs for Western New York. Additionally, there will be an influx of approximately \$5 billion in capital construction funds. The bill will also redefine New York's system of public higher education, developing the State University of New York into the economic driver it can be while keeping our colleges and universities accessible and affordable for generations to come.

To continue moving this legislation forward, we're bringing legislators from both houses and both parties to the table to discuss outstanding concerns and a comprehensive strategy for passage. To facilitate this discussion in an efficient and effective way, the office of Senator Tim Kennedy will coordinate next steps – your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions are very much appreciated. Time is of the essence and we would like to continue our conversations as soon as possible. Senator Kennedy's office can be reached at 518-455-2426.

As always, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Timothy Kennedy

John L. Sampson

Neil Breslin

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Shirley L. Huntley	Tony Avella	Joseph Addabbo
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