



SENATOR JIM ALESI

Community Update: Week Ending 2/26/10



Protecting the Genesee Valley Regional Market

This week I introduced legislation to prevent the Governor from dissolving the Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority – one of the only successful authorities in New York State. The Governor not only is determined to repeal the Authority, but looks to transfer its assets to the Empire State Development Corporation to be liquidated. The plan to abolish the Authority is reckless and unjustified. My legislation, S.6899, would establish a twelve month moratorium on any sale, takeover or dissolution of the assets of the Authority until the Authority's economic output can be assessed and presented to the Governor. Created in 1951, the Genesee Valley Regional Market has become an economic engine in Western New York. Presently, the nine-county, food distribution center, located on 123 acres in Henrietta, is home to 160 companies and nearly 1,600 employees. I am certain that the Authority has great benefit to our community and to our region and that this legislation will save a vital economic engine I am looking to promote in New York State.

National Eating Disorder Week – February 21st - 27th

February 21st - 27th is National Eating Disorder Week, increasing awareness for programs and services dedicated to assisting young adults struggling with an eating disorder. In working with area advocates, like Dr. Mary Tantillo, Director of the Comprehensive Care Center for Eating Disorders of Western New York, and Roger Battaglia, President of St. Joseph's Villa, I have gained a greater understanding of this important issue, and I have seen firsthand how children and families are affected. By raising awareness of the seriousness and prevalence of eating disorders, together we can provide the young children coping with eating disorders the necessary care and support they need.

New York's Taxpayers Deserve Their Refund Checks – It's *Your* Money!

In response to Governor Paterson's decision to delay state tax returns, this week I joined my colleagues in introducing legislation that would require the state to process individual tax returns in a timely manner and then promptly send out refunds.

The Governor's actions would require taxpayers to loan their money to the state involuntarily without any return compensation. Under current economic conditions, I find it unconscionable that the Governor would even consider delaying the return of taxpayers' money to them. I see this legislation as a necessary and immediate answer to fight against the Governor's ongoing desire to fleece state taxpayers of their hard-earned money.

Specifically, S.3985 would require the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance to pay any refund due within 30 days of receiving the tax return. The 30 days still provides the Department an adequate timeframe in which to review the tax return submitted to ensure accuracy, and then to mail the return without undue delay. If the Department fails to mail the return within 30 days, it would be required to pay the taxpayer six percent interest on the return.

I am pleased that this legislation is a bi-partisan effort in both the Senate and Assembly, and I am hopeful that it will come to the floor as early as next week. The Legislature must stand together for the taxpayers we are elected to serve.

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