



North Country Alliance

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2011 NCA Advocacy and Outreach Agenda:

➤ **OUR MISSION:** The North Country Alliance is a private-public consortium of economic development organizations, private businesses, utilities, public and private colleges, the media and financial institutions working to grow the economy of New York's six-county North Country region. Its role is to offer a single point of access to the resources you need to expand or locate your business in the Northern New York. Visit our website at www.northcountryalliance.org.

➤ **THE NCA SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**

The NCA supports the Governor's Executive Budget proposals that seek to enhance the Excelsior Jobs Program. In addition to these amendments, we urge the NYS Legislature to also consider the following Economic Development provisions:

- Establish statewide "weighted" regional cost indices that take into account rural and urban areas as they relate to job creation standards and potential economic impacts of projects. The type, size and pay quality of jobs created in rural areas are generally far less than that in metropolitan areas and these should not be considered negatively in determining benefits to new and expanding companies;
- Establish benchmarks for qualifying businesses to meet that go beyond number of jobs created (annual capital investment, annual training activities, annual facility improvements, facility diversifications, etc.); economic impact should be relative to the region where a business is locating;
- Provide high-tech/manufacturing job training incentives whereby businesses can access tax credits to help off-set the costs of training the local workforce (including the costs of purchasing equipment for training); and
- Promote investment in green jobs and provide incentives to businesses to build/upgrade energy efficient infrastructure.

• **THE NCA LENDS ITS SUPPORT TO THE REGIONAL COUNCILS:**

- Established in the mid-1980s as a regional association of economic developers, the NCA has evolved into a dynamic public-private partnership that provides cooperative marketing and professional education as well advocacy services to its members in the six-county Northern New York region. The NCA will be a great organizational asset to the Regional Councils given its intrinsic understanding of the communities it serves. Additionally, as a matter of parity, the NCA urges the Governor and Legislature to re-establish the North Country ESD Regional Office.

• **THE NCA SUPPORTS THE POWER FOR JOBS EXTENSION AND "RECHARGE NY:**

- The NCA supports the Governor's Executive Budget proposal to extend the Power for Jobs program for two years. In addition, the NCA applauds and strongly urges the creation of a permanent replacement program - RECHARGE NY.



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- **THE NCA SUPPORTS THE REPEAL OF THE COST RECOVERY TAX ON IDAs:**
 - The NCA supports the Governor's Executive Budget proposal to repeal the cost recovery tax on IDAs. Additionally, the NCA fully supports the New York State Economic Development Council's (NYSEDC) action plan to halt the imposition of this tax (see www.nysedc.org).
- **THE NCA IS ENCOURAGED BY AND SUPPORTS THE GOVERNOR'S SUGGESTED APPROPRIATIONS FOR TOURISM PROMOTION AND NEW YORK STATE BRANDING AS FOLLOWS:**
 - ESD-I LOVE NY : \$3.6 MILLION
 - Matching Funds for Tourism Promotion Agencies (TPAs): \$3.8 MILLION.
- **THE NCA CALLS FOR THE REPEAL OF THE BUSINESS TAX CREDIT DEFERRAL:**
 - The NCA urges the repeal of the provisions in the 2010-2011 Enacted Budget that defer, for three years, certain business tax credits that exceed \$2 million for any taxpayer. The measure essentially "borrows" \$1.3 billion from businesses to close a budget-gap they did not create. It is bad business practice for the state to break promises made to businesses in good-faith.
- **THE NCA SUPPORTS THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FACILITIES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY.**
 - Being located in one of the lowest-cost areas of state, these facilities offer a number of cost, performance, workforce and other strategic advantages for the Department of Corrections and New York State as a whole. These facilities were, and continue to be, welcomed by their host communities throughout this region. Closing these facilities would add an undue economic burden to the well-documented disproportionate circumstances of economic need and hardship in our North Country communities.
- **THE NCA SUPPORTS THE COMMISSION OF A TIERED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW FOR THE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF I-98:**
 - The NCA urges the Governor to direct the Commissioner of the NYS DOT to collaborate with senior staff at the USDOT Federal Highway Administration to utilize previously appropriated funds in order to initiate a tiered environmental impact review or related process that will provide the environmental clearance and pre-engineering data and support necessary to induce the future construction of the Interstate 98 corridor.