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*Chamber of Commerce*

February 27, 2017

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The Honorable Joseph D. Morelle  
Majority Leader, New York State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building 926  
Albany, New York 12248

Majority Leader Joseph Morelle,

As Upstate business leaders we know all too well the economic plight that Rochester and Western New York faced for decades. The state government was all but ignorant to the economic struggles Upstate New York confronted. Under Governor Cuomo all that changed. Upstate political officials joined the administration and the state government focused like a laser on helping cities like Rochester. During Governor Cuomo's administration the arrows have turned around and things are looking up all across Upstate New York. Our progress is due to both the state's focus and a new methodology to distribute and strategize economic development funding. The Governor organized business, academic and local leaders to develop regional business plans for long term economic growth. The REDCs are universally proclaimed as a success. In fact, the FLX REDC includes the local legislators in all strategic plans.

The Assembly is now threatening to derail the REDCs this time by requiring personal and financial information to be disclosed which no private citizen could be expected to endure.

The members of the REDC earn no pay and sign conflict of interest certifications. This invasion of privacy is just another ruse to end the REDCs. The REDCs are largely an Upstate initiative and not especially relevant in New York City.

It is time our Upstate legislators stand up for their districts and fight for their constituents. You are the highest ranking Upstate Assembly member. We need you to defeat this attack on Rochester's economic future. Please stand up for your constituents and tell the Assembly you will not tolerate the destruction of the best thing that has come out of Albany for Upstate New York in decades.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Sands  
President & CEO, Constellation Brands, Inc.  
Chairman, Greater Rochester Chamber  
of Commerce

Daniel R. Wegman  
CEO, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.  
Co-Chair, Finger Lakes Regional  
Economic Development Council

Anne M. Kress  
President, Monroe Community College  
Co-Chair, Finger Lakes Regional Economic  
Development Council

Robert J. Duffy  
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