



May 3, 2012

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
The Honorable Robert J. Duffy  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo and Lieutenant Governor Duffy:

Last year, we saw community, business, government, and academic leaders in each of the state's regions coming together to craft regionally-tailored strategic plans to spur new job creation and investment. With unprecedented public participation, the Councils brought stakeholders, community representatives, and top state officials together to look at how government can be an asset – instead of a barrier – to building on each region's existing strengths, through targeted capital investments or removing burdensome regulations. The key to the Regional Council's success was that it was an independent, community-based process with ideas and priority project selection coming straight from those who know the regions the best: the residents themselves.

The critical component that paved the way for the success of the regional council process was the independence given to each council by the administration to select its own priorities. The Administration lived up to its commitment to invest in our priorities and our vision and we look forward to that continuing during the second round.

We are excited that you and the Legislature have put in place a second round of the Regional Council process. After the countless hours spent putting together the regional plans, and now with the first round of awards that were announced last December in hand, there is new energy and enthusiasm in our communities as we begin to implement our regional strategies. The process moved swiftly last year and the feedback we received has been vital as the initiative improves and progresses.

As Governor, you have made opening New York State to business a top priority. The Regional Councils have been at the forefront of this effort, turning the tide and giving entrepreneurs and business leaders across the nation, and the globe, a reason to invest right here in the Empire State.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve as co-Chairs of the Regional Councils and look forward to continuing to work together to implement plans for each of our region's future.

Sincerely,

*Western New York Regional Economic Development Council:*

Satish K. Tripathi, President of University at Buffalo  
Howard A. Zemsky, Managing Partner at Larkin Development Group

*Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council:*

Joel Seligman, President of University of Rochester  
Danny Wegman, CEO of Wegmans Food Markets

*Central New York Regional Economic Development Council:*

Nancy Cantor, Chancellor & President of Syracuse University  
Rob M. Simpson, President of CenterState CEO

*Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council:*

David Skorton, President of Cornell University  
Tom Tranter, President & CEO of Corning Enterprises

*Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council:*

Lawrence T. Gilroy III, President, Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc.  
Bjong Wolf Yeigh, President, SUNY Institute of Technology

*North Country Regional Economic Development Council:*

Anthony G. Collins, Ph.D., President, Clarkson University  
Garry Douglas, President, North Country Chamber of Commerce

*Capital District Regional Economic Development Council:*

Michael J. Castellana, President and CEO, SEFCU  
Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

*Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council:*

Dennis Murray, President of Marist College  
Leonard S. Schleifer, MD, PhD, President & CEO, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

*New York City Regional Economic Development Council:*

Kenneth Chenault, Chairman & CEO, American Express  
Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor, City University of New York

*Long Island Regional Economic Development Council:*

Kevin Law, President of Long Island Association  
Stuart Rabinowitz, President of Hofstra University