MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S.1904 (Gaughran)

AN ACT to amend chapter 97 of the laws of 2011, amending the general municipal law and the education law relating to establishing limits upon school district and local government tax levies, in relation to eliminating the expiration of and making permanent certain provisions thereof

The Capital Region Chamber, representing 2,400 businesses and organizations from throughout the Capital Region that employ more than 150,000 area residents, strongly supports S.1904, which would make the municipal and school district tax caps permanent.

The current tax cap limits year-to-year property tax increases to 2%. The adoption of the cap has effectively helped local governments control spending and implement efficiencies. In fact, since the tax cap has been in place, New York State taxpayers have enjoyed over $7.6 billion in tax savings. Capital Region taxpayers alone have realized tax savings of more than $587 million.

The Chamber has been a strong advocate of a permanent property tax cap coupled with meaningful mandate relief and appropriate state aid to local governments. Year after year, ever increasing property taxes had been a drag on the state's economy. However, since it was enacted in 2011, the current cap has greatly curbed this tax burden. The results have been incredibly positive. Taxpayers have seen real savings. Business investment has increased and jobs have been generated. If this trend is to continue, the cap should not only be extended; it must be made permanent.

By enacting this legislation, the state will help to ensure that families and businesses can afford to live, work, grow and remain in New York State. A permanent cap will provide continued economic growth and prosperity for New York's businesses and taxpayers. This bill keeps the state and its economy moving in the right direction.

For these stated reasons, the Capital Region Chamber recommends the passage of this legislation.