

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul

Governor of New York State
Executive Chambers, Capitol Building
Albany, New York

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Majority Leader, New York State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 330
Albany, New York

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie

Speaker, New York State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 349
Albany, New York

Finishing Where This Session Began: 40 Member Statewide Coalition Urges Action on Affordability in the FY 2027 Budget

Dear Governor Hochul, Speaker Heastie, and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins,

We write on behalf of a broad coalition of trade, business, and research organizations from every region of New York. A few weeks ago, we urged rejection of all proposed tax increases that would undoubtedly move the state in the wrong direction. Today, we write not in opposition, but in support, urging that the final weeks of budget negotiations return to where this legislative session began: Affordability.

While our members continue to advocate on a range of important budget and session priorities, we wanted to call attention to three proposals that would collectively deliver real, measurable relief to New Yorkers: Changes to Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) implementation, modernization of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and auto insurance reform.

Each addresses affordability in a distinct but equally critical way. CLCPA implementation changes would create a more workable path to the state's climate goals while reducing energy and compliance costs that are passed directly to consumers and businesses. SEQRA modernization would remove procedural barriers that delay housing, infrastructure, and commercial development, driving up construction financing and constraining supply. Auto insurance reform would have meaningful impact for drivers and government agencies by tackling fraud, excessive litigation, and legal system outliers that make New York widely regarded as one of the most expensive states in the country to insure a vehicle.

The urgency could not be clearer. The New York City Economic Development Corporation's latest reporting shows the city lost roughly 1,050 businesses in net business formation over the third quarter of 2025, following nearly 4,900 lost in the second quarter – the weakest quarter for net business formation in five years.

Revised data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in April tells a similar story: the city has nearly 20,000 fewer private sector jobs today than it did a year ago. Federal and state data also show that a number of upstate communities are losing jobs or failing behind national trends. And across New York, significant domestic outmigration continues. Every elected official in Albany should be concerned. The path forward is not to add new costs, but to advance the structural reforms already before you that will deliver meaningful savings for families and employers.

This is not about choosing sides. It is about fulfilling a serious commitment to provide relief for all New Yorkers. While preventing tax increases remains essential to protecting paychecks, the case for acting on auto insurance, CLCPA, and SEQRA reform is self-evident. Taking on all three would provide real relief and demonstrate that government can continue to deliver on affordability when it matters most. We urge you to seize this opportunity.

Respectfully,

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Queens Chamber of Commerce

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Association for a Better Long Island

Bob Duffy
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Stacey Duncan
President & CEO
Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce

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