

For Release: Immediate, August 4, 2010

Contact: Karyn Burns, VP Communications & Government Relations
MACNY
315.474.4201 ext 13
kburns@macny.org

Hadley Horrigan, Vice President
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
716.310.8331
hhorrigan@thepartnership.org

Statewide Business Groups Consider One Year Extender a Failure *Long Term Energize New York Bill Not Taken up by Assembly*

Syracuse, NY-Statewide business organizations today expressed their deep disappointment in the New York State Assembly, for failing to introduce Energize New York, a long term fully sustainable power program. If passed, Energize New York would have supported jobs and critical businesses that sustain our economy, produced vast economic benefits to the State, allowed manufacturers and businesses to make long term investments, and make New York State more competitive in retaining businesses. Early in the legislative session, the New York State Senate passed Energize New York with an overwhelming vote of 59-2, and the Administration has endorsed this program for its economic development benefits from the beginning.

Despite statewide business support, consistent editorial and media coverage touting the benefits of the program, and even urging from champion members of the Assembly majority conference, at the end of the session yesterday, Assembly leadership refused to take up the bill. Despite lack of action from the collective Assembly, Assembly members William Magnarelli, RoAnn DeStito, Al Stirpe and Assemblyman Sam Hoyt did stand up for business, and sent a letter urging the leadership to introduce and pass Energize New York. In the end, it landed on deaf ears in the Assembly leadership, and they refused to take action.

Because the Assembly was willing to hold out and put thousands of businesses and job benefits at risk, the Senate was placed in an impossible situation and ultimately forced to pass the one year extender bill. MACNY and the Buffalo Niagara Partnership recognize the Senate did this to protect those businesses that rely on the lower cost energy that these programs offer so they can stay competitive.

MACNY President Randy Wolken stated, "On behalf of Manufacturers statewide, it is important to note that this extension is considered a failure on the part of the New York State Assembly. The Senate and the Administration deserve applause and recognition for their efforts. In the end, the Senate had to do what was best for New York and pass a one year extension to protect residents and its critical manufacturers and businesses. I remain deeply disappointed in the Assembly leadership on this issue. However, this is not the end. Energize New York has too much support and benefit not to be passed into Law. I look forward to continued work with the State Legislature and passage of this bill in the near future."

“This is an absolute failure by the Assembly and another example of its New York City-centric leadership letting down upstate,” said Andrew J. Rudnick, President & CEO of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. “Upstate businesses have been promised a comprehensive energy program year after year and consistently those promises have proved to be empty – as empty as Assembly leadership seems to want upstate’s manufacturing facilities and other workplaces.”

###