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Partnership, Unshackle Upstate Acknowledge Legislature for Cutting Deficit Without Raising Taxes and Fees

But there is still "a lot more work to do"

BUFFALO, NY – The Buffalo Niagara Partnership and Unshackle Upstate coalition today acknowledged the New York State Legislature for advancing a \$2.7 billion Deficit Reduction Plan without implementing additional taxes and fees, but demanded lawmakers carry this fiscal discipline forward into the 2010-11 budgeting process.

“For Buffalo Niagara’s business and personal taxpayers, raising taxes to fill the state’s budget gap was never a viable option,” said Andrew J. Rudnick, Partnership President & CEO. “So, we’re pleased that the state legislature did not follow the same course it took earlier this year, when lawmakers passed the state’s inability to cut spending on to taxpayers. However, opportunities for one-shot budget gimmicks and fiscal magic tricks eventually run out, so there’s a lot more work to do.”

Rudnick credited taxpayers, employers and business groups for expressing outrage and applying constant pressure to the governor and lawmakers to address the budget deficit without resorting to the usual practice of raising taxes, fees and assessments on New York’s taxpayers and employers.

“Albany heard the cries of taxpayers and the business community and resisted the temptation to raise taxes and fees,” said Rudnick. “But it is now vital that the Senate, Assembly and governor maintain a disciplined approach as they consider additional budget cuts to address the looming \$11 billion deficit projected in the next fiscal year. While this week’s actions address a majority of the \$3.2 billion current-year deficit, it does absolutely nothing to correct the structural imbalance in state spending. With the governor’s budget proposal due in January, the public must continue to insist that our elected officials correct this imbalance next year.”

According to 2006 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, New York ranked 49th out of 50 in state and local per capita spending, with \$12,505 in state and local funds allocated per person per year and \$34,088 per household per year.

“Clearly, New York’s spending and taxing has been out of control for far too long,” Rudnick said. “The Partnership and our partners in the Unshackle Upstate coalition have outlined \$9 billion in responsible short- and long-term cuts to state spending (www.unshackleupstate.com). Again, we urge Albany to take a serious look at these recommendations.”

About the Buffalo Niagara Partnership

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership includes nearly 2,200 local employers, working together, for growth and an improved business climate in the region. The Partnership advocates to remove obstacles that impede investment and job growth in the area and offers members products and services to help save money and increase revenue. The Partnership also helps local companies in today's thriving industry sectors achieve success by providing business development and business intelligence experts, and a variety of programs that improve workforce, productivity, operations, and bottom-line. The Partnership sets itself apart by bringing business people together to grow their network, learn from their peers, develop their career and participate in activism concerning current and future issues facing the business community and the region.