



2015 State Legislative Session ACTION AGENDA

KEY PRIORITIES

Extend Brownfield Cleanup Program (UU) (RA)

The Brownfield Cleanup Program is helping rebuild Buffalo Niagara and is a critical economic development tool. The Partnership supports Governor Cuomo's 10-year extension proposal with the following modifications:

Revise definition of 'Upside Down' site

- Cost factor needs to include all site preparation expenses
- Appraisal determining post-cleanup fair market value needs to reflect site's status as former brownfield with legacy costs

Provide flexibility within En-Zone eligibility requirements

- Allow sites to meet either household poverty or unemployment thresholds under En-Zone requirement, not both

Define 'Integrated to the Structure of the Building' requirement as it relates to manufacturing and machine installations not easily relocated

Fund infrastructure investment in Buffalo Niagara

The Partnership believes a portion of state's settlement funds should be targeted toward infrastructure needs in Buffalo Niagara, including:

- Increase NYDOT's budget allocation to Region 5 (Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie & Niagara counties) (RA)
- Increase State Transit Operating Assistance funding to NFTA
- Match federal funding for Cars on Main Street (RA)
- Expansion of Route 219 and the 'Southtowns Connector' (RA)
- Fund Amherst-Buffalo corridor (RA)

Reform the Scaffold Law (UU)

New York is the only state in the nation to operate under an outdated Scaffold Law unfairly placing 'absolute liability' on contractors and property owners for workplace accidents.

Reform the Scaffold Law by allowing a comparative negligence standard to be used for actions brought under Labor Law Section 240/241 (S543/A3209)

THE PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS: ↑

- Permanent extension of the 2% Property Tax Cap (UU)
- Permanent extension and expansion of the Design-Build program and removal of Project Labor Agreement language in 2015-16 Executive Budget (UU)
- Small business tax relief designed to generate growth and investment in all small business, not just those defined as corporate franchises (UU)
- Unfunded Mandate Reform Act (A3981) (UU)
- Reform asbestos remediation regulatory burdens (RA)
- Education reforms, including:
 - Governors' proposals related to teacher assessments and tenure
 - Education Investment Tax Credit (S1976 & similar A2551)
 - Legislation moving Buffalo Board of Education elections from May to November
 - Legislation creating mayoral appointments to the Buffalo Board of Education
- Establishing Buffalo as a designated inland port to the Port of NY & NJ (RA)
- Maintaining funding for Roswell Park Cancer Institute or providing the flexibility it needs to control costs (RA)
- Capital investment in UB/SUNY to address both maintenance needs and new construction (RA)

THE PARTNERSHIP OPPOSES: ↓

- The Circuit Breaker program as a means of providing property tax relief (UU)
- Labor mandates expanding the state's Prevailing Wage laws (UU)
- Industrial Development Agency 'reforms' resulting in longer approval timeframes, limits on urban revitalization and smart growth efforts, and loss of local control over economic development decisions (UU)
- Increasing the state's Minimum Wage to \$10.50 by end of 2016
- Creating a universal single payer health plan in New York (S3525/A5062)
- Increasing taxes on health insurers to fund the state's health insurance exchange
- Any proposal to create a system of public financing for political campaigns (UU)