

2009 New York State End-of-Session Review

Successful Offense

Historic Preservation Tax Credit – Upon returning from the stalemate, the State Senate passed a “same as” bill matching the Assembly’s related to the Historic Preservation Tax Credit – a Partnership priority the past two years – which will spur “in-fill” urban core development. We’ve urged the governor to sign this legislation – he will be doing so in Buffalo on July 29.

Successful Defense

The Partnership successfully advocated in opposition to a number of pieces of legislation before the State Legislature this session, including:

- Wage mandates related to IDA incentives
- Expansion and indexing of unemployment benefits
- “Environmental Access to Justice Act” - Would allow an individual to use SEQRA hold up an economic development project through litigation
- NY Wetlands Bill – Would require wetlands review by DEC for every parcel of land being developed over 1 acre (currently 12.5 acres)

2009 Regional Agenda

UB2020 – While legislation giving UB greater flexibility in tuition and public-private partnerships (S.2020) has passed the Senate, qualms in the Assembly have led to discussions focused on UB2020-like provisions also being given to the state’s other large SUNY institutions – including Albany, Binghamton and Stony Brook. Unfortunately, with no plans in place, those universities have not created the demand that UB2020 already has, and the advocacy in other regions has to date been weak. With the Senate’s support in principle, advocacy efforts have begun to target Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

Partnership and Unshackle Upstate Priorities Not Addressed

- Legislation ensuring the proceeds of NYPA power designated for our region *stay* in our region for economic development projects that will create jobs and bring investment here (sponsorship in both houses achieved – Gabryszak/Stachowski);
- The implementation of tax increment financing (TIF) - a no-cost high yield economic development tool utilized in a host of other states (sponsorship in both houses achieved – Schimminger/Stachowski);
- Authority for IDAs to incentivize schools, hospitals, senior homes and other non-profit projects without wage mandates attached;
- Implementation of the governor’s proposed property tax cap (Unshackle Upstate);
- Implementation of a Tier V option for the state’s pension system – which was reported to be part of the governor’s deal with labor to avoid layoffs, but has not materialized (Unshackle Upstate);
- Implementation of a Medicaid Commission to assess New York’s Medicaid system (Unshackle Upstate).