



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Brian M. Kolb
Minority Leader

May 15, 2013

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

It is with a high sense of urgency that we, as elected leaders, must deal with the public corruption issues that have surfaced in recent weeks. In the midst of this turmoil, we have an opportunity and an obligation to restore the confidence of the people we serve.

As you know, it is imperative that we implement effective anti-corruption measures swiftly and decisively so that we can focus our efforts to their rightful place – crafting sound public policy that improves the quality of life for 19 million New Yorkers.

The Assembly Minority Conference has introduced comprehensive legislation that calls for unprecedented reforms to the laws, regulations and requirements that guide the conduct of state officials. I am proud that every member of our Conference has signed onto this comprehensive bill package. In doing so, the Assembly Minority Conference has made a steadfast commitment to bringing real change to Albany that will foster greater integrity, transparency and accountability that our constituents expect and deserve.

The Public Officers Accountability Act of 2013 (A.7393) contains a host of legislative initiatives that would:

- Ban individuals from future public employment for felony convictions related to official duties;
- Reform member items;
- Replace the separate investigative authorities with a new Commission on Official Conduct;
- Require the return of campaign funds to donors or charity upon felony convictions;
- Create new crimes against the public trust;
- Limit the use of campaign funds to campaign activities; and
- Institute eight-year term limits for legislative leaders and committee chairs.

This legislative package should be part of a discussion that includes previously introduced anti-corruption measures to remove pensions from convicted public officials and to provide the voting public with greater powers through recall elections.

It is my sincere belief that enactment of The Public Officers Accountability Act is an important and necessary step toward restoring the confidence of the people we represent. While much has been said and written on the topic of public corruption, it is now time for action, and to advance effective measures that will bring about meaningful reform. I look forward to working with you and my legislative colleagues to advance these and other important public policies.

Sincerely,



Brian M. Kolb
Assembly Minority Leader

cc: Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the Assembly
Hon. Dean Skelos, Temporary President and Majority Coalition Leader
Hon. Jeffrey Klein, Temporary President and IDC Coalition Leader
Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Democratic Conference Leader
Members of the Assembly Minority Conference
Hon. Thomas DiNapoli, Comptroller, State of New York
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, Attorney General, State of New York

REPLY TO:

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