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ALBANY

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Assemblyman 139th District
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July 28, 2011

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
NYS State Capitol
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I respectfully request that you rescind the recent unemployment insurance (UI) interest assessment surcharge imposed on all businesses by the New York State Department of Labor and refund to any businesses that have paid this assessment to date. As you know, this surcharge was imposed to cover a \$95 million interest payment on federal loans to our state's UI trust fund to pay UI benefits to multitudes of unemployed workers.

For the past few years, the United States Congress has enacted legislation to make interest-free federal loans to state UI trust funds. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for congressional action to continue this policy.

If Congress fails to act, I suggest using a portion of the nearly \$800 million in surplus first-quarter tax receipts from the current fiscal year to cover the \$95 million interest payment on the federal loans, instead of imposing yet another job-killing fee on our hard-pressed businesses in New York State.

With the enactment of a property-tax cap this year combined with the recent launch of your Regional Economic Development Councils, our state is in a position to craft a true economic development plan that creates an environment allowing businesses to create jobs and help to get unemployed New Yorkers back to work.

As a businessman, I understand firsthand how New York businesses are overregulated and overtaxed. The impact of this unfriendly business climate has contributed to numerous job losses throughout our great state.

This UI interest assessment surcharge will be another burden placed on the backs of businesses and is detrimental to recent strides to improve New York's damaged business climate. I agree with you that our focus now needs to be jobs. That is why I urge you to rescind the interest

assessment surcharge and send a clear message to business owners across the state that New York is once again open for business. It was great seeing you in Rochester on Wednesday at Monroe Community College where you announced the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council co-chairs, Danny Wegman and Joel Seligman. I share your vision to help create a new New York!

Sincerely,

STEVE HAWLEY
Member of Assembly
139th AD