

SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE EMPIRE ZONE PROGRAM

I, Bonnie Swanson, Chairwoman of the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, do hereby certify that at a meeting of the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, held at the premises of the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce, on January 21, 2009 at which a quorum was present, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the economic stability and sustainability of Livingston County is vital to its residents and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Livingston is possesses a balanced economy existing of a range of various types of business, industry, tourism and recreation; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Livingston is cognizant of the need for additional balanced commercial and industrial growth to attain such economic stability and sustainability; and,

WHEREAS, the tax revenue generated by businesses throughout Livingston County and the State of New York provide much needed relief to the individual taxpayers and their families; and,

WHEREAS, the New York State Empire Zone program has been a proven stimulus in the growth and revitalization of weakened local economies throughout New York State; and,

WHEREAS, the New York State Empire Zone program has been successful in bringing thousands of new jobs to its sponsoring counties; and,

WHEREAS, the Livingston County Empire Zone, established in 2006, has already resulted in the attraction of two out of State companies to the County and the State of New York and the complete redevelopment and reuse of a formerly vacant manufacturing complex; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Empire Zone program has resulted in increased interest in Livingston County by prospective businesses inquiring from outside of New York State and assisting local companies prepare for growth; and,

WHEREAS, the New York State Empire Zone program has a planned sunset date of June 30, 2011; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget will make sweeping changes to the Empire Zone program that may lead to litigation, company relocation and loss of credibility to New York's economic development efforts; and,

WHEREAS, increasing New York's already high cost of doing business by raising business fees and taxes, significantly cutting the state's business development budget, and tarnishing the credibility of our economic development efforts would make New York less competitive; and,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce in anticipation of great success and promise for new job creation within its Empire Zones, hereby requests the State of New York to continue its Empire Zone stimulus program beyond 2011 to June 30, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New York State Legislature, in an effort to maintain continuity and to stimulate positive momentum, is encouraged to enact legislation that will make the Empire Zone program less bureaucratic, less complex, more targeted, and less costly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York's economic development incentive programs exist to offset the sting of one of the nation's most unattractive business climates and if tax and regulatory reform were enacted, New York wouldn't need such programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, as lawmakers work on the state budget, it is absolutely critical they do not add more burdens to employers - whether through taxes, fees, wage mandates or regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President of the Chamber of Commerce is hereby directed to forward this resolution in support of continuing the Empire Zone to Senator Dale Volker, Senator Catharine Young, Assemblyman Dan Burling, Assemblyman Joe Errigo, and Randal Coburn Director of the Empire Zone program to encourage and enlist their support.

In witness where, I have hereunto set my hand on this 21st day of January 2009,

Bonnie Swanson, Chairwoman
Livingston County Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors

MOTION: Helen Zamboni, Esq.
2nd: Mr. John Quinlan
VOTE: Carried unanimously