

March 30, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
Executive Chambers, Capitol Building
Albany, New York

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader, New York State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 330
Albany, New York

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker, New York State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 349
Albany, New York

Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie,

We, Greater Rochester Chamber's Advocacy Committee representing business and community leaders in the Finger Lakes Region, are writing today to express our support for FY27 budget proposals that support our community's and State's continued growth and long-term prosperity. As budget negotiations are finalized, we urge you to support proposals that support affordability for businesses and families alike, uplift all New Yorkers, and promote long-term investment in our state.

One of the most pressing issues impacting all sectors of our State's economy is the 2019 Climate and Community Leadership Protection Act (CLCPA). Modifications to CLCPA are both reasonable and necessary given the growing recognition that a 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 is infeasible. Amendments to change emission reduction targets and align emission measurements with national standards would make the state's climate change policies more workable and affordable and help avoid uncompetitive energy costs for businesses like ours. They are also timely, considering the ongoing litigation that could force New York to adopt excessively expensive regulations.

Significant reform is also needed for the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process, another outdated and antiquated piece of legislation stalling New York's growth. Streamlining this process is a common-sense solution that promotes development across New York State. For decades, this legislation has added costs and delays to projects that would bring significant good to communities across our state – from affordable housing to job creating companies. While this legislation was passed with the best of intentions, bad actors are abusing it and weaponizing it to stall competitors and opposition, and we must act now to fix this issue.

Our state is at an inflection point where we must address the increasing financial strain placed on families, small businesses, and healthcare due to rising costs across all sectors of the economy. Proposed reforms to reduce insurance fraud will help lower premiums, restore fairness, and put money back in New Yorkers' pockets. Unnecessary lawsuits drive up costs for all New Yorkers and

price out many hard-working individuals from accessing the transportation needed to secure and maintain meaningful employment.

Finally, at a time when affordability remains a top concern and employers are actively deciding where to invest, hire, and grow, any tax increases enacted in this budget risk pushing New York further out of alignment with competing states. Pushing businesses and residents out of New York State is not the way to ensure economic prosperity. We must instead offer businesses the opportunity to reinvest in our communities, their workforce, and our broader state – which is not possible when taxes continue to rise, as they have in three of the last five budgets.

The proposals and reforms highlighted above are all paramount to reaching New York's broader community goals – job growth, economic competitiveness, public safety, affordability, housing, and quality of life all rely on thoughtful policy implementation and reform. On behalf of Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, its Board of Directors, and its 1,300+ member organizations representing over 150,000 employees, we urge you to support the above stances in an enacted FY27 budget that works for New Yorkers today and for years to come.

Sincerely,

Bob Duffy
President & CEO
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce

Faheem Masood
Chairman of the Board
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce

Dan Burns
Area Executive
M&T Bank

Steve Epping
Rochester Regional President
M&T Bank

Matt Hurlbutt
President & CEO
Greater Rochester Enterprise

Vince Lecce
Rochester Market President
KeyBank N.A.

Michael Nuccitelli
President & CEO
Omega TMM

Stephen McDonnell
President & CEO
Wilmac Technologies

David Riedman
President
Riedman Companies

Tyrone Reaves
President
TruForm Manufacturing

CC: Senator Jeremy Cooney
Senator Samra Brouk
Senator Robert Ortt
Senator Pamela Helming
Assemblymember Harry Bronson
Assemblymember Jennifer Lunsford

Assemblymember Sarah Clark
Assemblymember Demond Meeks
Assemblymember Josh Jensen
Assemblymember Andrea Bailey