



DONNA A. LUPARDO
Member of Assembly
126TH District

May 5, 2010

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Subcommittee on
Women Veterans

COMMITTEES
Election Law
Environmental Conservation
Higher Education
Mental Health
Transportation
Veterans' Affairs

Honorable David A. Paterson
Governor
State of New York
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

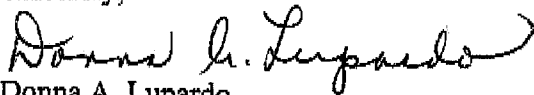
I am writing this letter to appeal to your sense of fair play as we move forward with budget negotiations. I am sure you realize that most of the delay can be traced to political rather than policy differences, especially in the Senate where each member of the majority appears to have veto power.

Right now there are hundreds of hardworking people who are out of work in my Assembly District because road and bridge and other capital projects have been suspended. One hundred were just laid off at a project at Binghamton University. Many others have lost their health insurance due to lack of work. I am also concerned about state workers who are facing furloughs. Many can little afford to see a 20% reduction in their weekly paychecks. I am unable to explain to them and their families why our politics is causing them so much distress.

I can sincerely appreciate your frustration and have supported your calls for fiscal responsibility. I have admired your steadfast commitment to reigning in state spending and to setting the state on a better course. This message is especially important in Upstate where job losses have been catastrophic. That is why I am making this personal and sincere appeal to you regarding these jobs and potential furloughs. It is making matters so much worse for the people I represent Upstate.

There has to be a more constructive way to bring the various parties to agreement on a budget. Further, I am very concerned that this punitive approach may be hurting rather than helping negotiations. Many of my Upstate colleagues from both houses have discussed these matters and believe that there is room for compromise as we move forward. If I can be of assistance to you in any way during this time, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


Donna A. Lupardo
Member of Assembly

