



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

December 29, 2009

Dear Governor Paterson:

The undersigned organizations write to ask that you remain committed to the precepts of your State Energy Plan of last fall, in which you called for the further development of in-state energy supplies, including natural gas.

As the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation completes its review of the environmental impact statement governing natural gas exploration in New York, we believe that the way forward to the safe development of the Marcellus Shale is now clear.

We need your support for this compelling economic development opportunity, one that could benefit the State and localities significantly for years to come. We should embrace our State's ability to bring New York-produced gas to New York customers, and by so doing create new opportunity and prosperity in our own State.

We believe that New York cannot afford to turn away or postpone the tremendous opportunity for economic resurgence and a clean energy supply presented by the Marcellus Shale. Your State Energy Plan correctly point outs that:

"The State should promote environmentally responsible development of these natural gas resources to large scale production, which would generate economic benefits, including increasing the stable supplies of indigenous fuel, lowering gas transportation costs for consumers, generating new State and local tax revenues, and increased revenues for landowners from land use agreements with natural gas companies."


We ask that you remain steadfast in this position – that natural gas, the cleanest fossil fuel known to man – is a solution to reducing our nation's carbon footprint, and it will greatly improve New York's and America's energy independence. For decades to come, natural gas will serve as the transition to – and the primary back-up for – renewable energy technologies, such as wind and solar. And natural gas is abundant; the Marcellus Shale alone could supply natural gas to the entire United States for 20 years or more.

Natural gas exploration in the Marcellus Shale formation has been and will continue to be conducted safely, efficiently and without environmental harm. The extremely stringent requirements proposed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in the draft Supplemental Generic Impact Statement (sGEIS) provide the public with the necessary oversight that natural gas exploration and extraction will be conducted in an environmentally safe manner.

It's also important to emphasize the economics of natural gas exploration. Based on economic projections in Pennsylvania, where the Marcellus is now being explored, Marcellus Shale development in New York will generate more than \$1.4 billion in annual economic impact, based on 300 wells drilled – including more than \$100 million in lease payments to landowners, \$32 million in state tax revenue and tens of thousands of new jobs over time. In Broome County, a recent study that showed that 2,000 wells would annually generate more than \$7.4 billion in economic activity, and nearly \$400 million in wages, salaries and benefits. Also, more than \$600 million in property tax income and \$22 million and \$20 million in state and local taxes would be generated. All of this – in just one county.

We ask you to continue to lead the way forward to this enormous economic development opportunity, in a region so desperately in need of hope and economic vitality. We are very grateful for your support and leadership, and will hope that communities in New York will see new opportunity from the Marcellus someday soon.

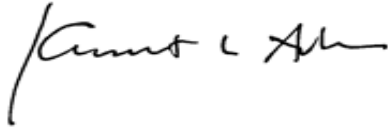
Respectfully submitted,



Brad R. Gill, Executive Director
Independent Gas & Oil Association of NY



James E. Eisel Sr., Chairman
Delaware County Board of Supervisors



Kenneth Adams, President and CEO
Chamber Alliance of New York State



Lou Santoni, President and CEO
Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce



Darlene D. Kerr, President
Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce



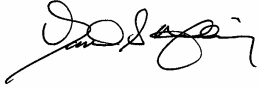
Gavin Donohue, President and CEO
Independent Power Producers of NY



Randy Wolken, President
Manufacturers Association of Central New York



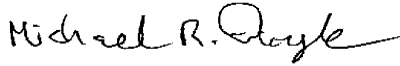
Michael J. Elmendorf II, New York State Director
National Federation of Independent Business



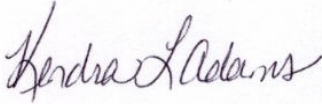
David S. Hamling, President and CEO
New York Construction Materials Association



Brian T. McMahon, Executive Director
New York State Economic Development Council



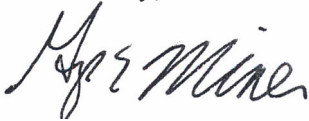
Michael R. Doyle, Executive Director
New York State Petroleum Council



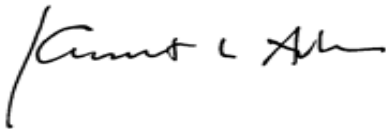
Kendra L. Adams, Executive Director
New York State Motor Truck Association



Daniel G. Plummer, Legislative Counsel
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George E. Miner, President
Southern Tier Economic Group



Kenneth Adams, President and CEO
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.



Brian Sampson, Executive Director
Unshackle Upstate