



Monroe County Legislature

CARRIE M. ANDREWS
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 21

CARRIE M. ANDREWS
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 21
1100 EAST AVENUE, 5A
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14607
OFFICE (585) 753-1940
HOME (585) 442-3756
EMAIL: carrie_andrews@hotmail.com

May 8, 2006

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: **Memorializing the New York State Legislature to Pass Assembly Bill #A10787 and Senate Bill #S7391, Legislation Calling for IDA Reform**

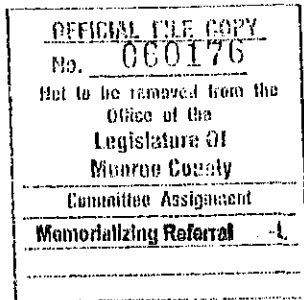
Honorable Legislators:

Throughout New York State, Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs) are recognized by county governments as essential economic development tools that utilize tax incentives and subsidies in exchange for job growth and business retention. There are 115 IDAs throughout the state that provide almost \$400 million in net tax exemptions from local, county and school taxes. IDAs also have the authority to issue low-interest industrial development revenue bonds, giving eligible companies the opportunity to borrow money at lower costs.

Concerns have been raised at the local and state levels about IDA accountability. We believe that IDAs must hold companies that receive tax breaks and other forms of assistance accountable for creating jobs. Economic development spurred by IDAs should benefit the local community, and companies that receive benefits but don't live up to their promises of job creation should lose those benefits and have to repay them.

Sections of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law, which regulates the operations of Industrial Development Agencies, are scheduled to sunset this year, providing a unique opportunity to reinforce accountability standards.

New York State Senator George Maziarz and Assemblyman John Sweeney have proposed legislation calling for IDA reforms, including provisions that require IDAs to include claw back directives in all contracts, maintain and make available to the public official records of agency proceedings, up-to-date lists of pending projects and a current schedule of all PILOT payments due annually (including a list of delinquent payments), and to file all applications and application materials with each impacted tax jurisdiction. Wage and standards provisions have also been enhanced to include that construction on IDA projects is defined as a public works



project and subject to prevailing wage law, that IDAs must have a local hiring policy for construction jobs, and that all employers operating as part of an IDA-funded project have to pay a living wage rate.

New York towns, counties and school districts continue to experience budget problems as they are forced to do more with less revenue. It is critical, now more than ever, that IDA tax breaks be used responsibly. Therefore, we ask that you join us in memorializing the New York State Legislature to pass bills A10787 and S7391, legislation calling for IDA reform.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Andrews
Carrie M. Andrews
Legislator - District 21

Carla M. Palumbo
Carla M. Palumbo
Democratic Leader

Edward M. O'Brien
Edward M. O'Brien
Legislator - District 17

Paul E. Haney
Paul E. Haney
Legislator - District 23

C. Stephen Eckel
C. Stephen Eckel
Legislator - District 26

Willie J. Lightfoot
Willie J. Lightfoot
Legislator - District 27