

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS RATH & LORIGO

Re: Extension of Brownfield clean-up tax incentives program

WHEREAS, the City of Buffalo and County of Erie have long been home to industrial operations, leading to a large amount of property throughout the County designated as contaminated brownfield sites; and

WHEREAS, brownfield sites often require expensive remediation processes that would otherwise prevent development and rehabilitation of polluted areas; and

WHEREAS, in the past several years the County has seen a resurgence in the redevelopment and reuse of once contaminated industrial properties; and

WHEREAS, this redevelopment has been substantially aided by tax credits offered to eligible developers who enter into a project requiring remediation of contaminated areas and the redevelopment of otherwise vacant property; and

WHEREAS, large developments often require an extensive planning and design stage, necessitating advanced knowledge as to whether or not the developer will be required to pay for the full cost of remediation; and

WHEREAS, without the tax incentives for remediating brownfield sites, much of the work put into rehabilitating the unused industrial centers of Erie County would not have begun; and

WHEREAS, the current timeline for tax incentives for brownfield remediation ended December 31, 2015, currently the state will no longer be offering the types of incentives that have proved to be exceptionally beneficial to the WNY area; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S7878, which was supported by this honorable body, proposed to further extend the opportunity to receive credits for an additional two years, pushing the deadline to December 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo recently vetoed the above named legislation, which he had indicated support for earlier this year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body supports extending the availability of brownfield redevelopment credits, refinancing of the State Superfund program, and calling for additional allocations to the hazardous waste clean-up account; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body requests that Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature extend this important and necessary program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Senate and Assembly, Governor Cuomo's Office, the local leadership for all other Western New York Counties, and any other parties deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: Positive as increased development in the WNY region will lead to higher tax rolls and a more stable revenue stream.