



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## Seward Digs Herkimer Diamond - Legislation Would Dub Crystal As Official State Mineral

JAMES L. SEWARD June 21, 2011

| ISSUE: **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ARTS AND CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

ALBANY, 06/21/11 – The New York State Senate today passed legislation ([S.1682](#)) that would designate the Herkimer Diamond as the official state mineral. The legislation, sponsored by Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I – Oneonta), celebrates the distinctive quartz crystals from the Mohawk Valley.

**“Formed almost 500 million years ago and known worldwide, the Herkimer Diamond deserves to be properly recognized across New York,”** said Senator Seward. **“I am extremely proud that the state senate has approved legislation naming the Herkimer Diamond as the official mineral of New York State.”**

Doubly terminated quartz crystals from the Mohawk Valley are commonly referred to as Herkimer Diamonds due to their diamond shape and are unique to New York. They are known around the world as some of the clearest quartz mineral specimens found to date.

**“The Empire State has a proud tradition of recognizing and trumpeting the features that make it unique. Certainly, the Herkimer Diamond is one of those rare treasures well deserving of ‘official’ statewide status,”** concluded Seward.

New York State has previously designated an official gemstone (garnet), fossil (sea scorpion), shell (bay scallop), bush (lilac), salt water fish (striped bass), and reptile (snapping turtle), to

name a few. Currently, there is no official state mineral.

The bill has been to the assembly where it is sponsored by Assemblyman Marc Butler.