



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Gustavo Rivera

## Senator Rivera Issues Statement Following Governor Cuomo's Announcement to Reform New York's Tax System

GUSTAVO RIVERA December 7, 2011

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Bronx, NY - Senator Gustavo Rivera (D, WF-Bronx) issued the following statement in response to Governor Cuomo's announcement that an agreement has been reached that will create jobs and reform New York's tax system:

"I applaud Governor Cuomo's for his leadership in taking on tax reform and for acknowledging that New York State can address economic development at the same time that we address economic inequality. After being asked to continuously sacrifice during tough economic times, middle class and working families in the 33rd Senate District in the Bronx will be receiving a tax cut to help them get back on track. Together, we have brought the tax rate for middle class families to its lowest in 58 years in the state of New York. Once again, Governor Cuomo and the state of New York have taken a lead on creating a more fair and progressive tax system that should be a model for other states and for our federal government.

Despite lowering taxes, this plan will also bring in \$1.9 billion in much-needed revenue to the state of New York that I hope will be used to fund education, health and public safety programs cut over previous years. With more than half of my constituents earning less than \$25,000 a year, there is no doubt in my mind that the communities that I represent are hit

the hardest by cutting critical human services. I hope that by continuing to work with Governor Cuomo over the coming days and months, we will be able to ensure that communities like the ones I represent are not being asked to sacrifice further and that a sense of fairness is restored to both our tax system and our budget priorities.”