



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Catharine Young

## Budget Must Reflect the Economic Challenges Facing Middle-Class Families

CATHARINE YOUNG January 21, 2015

| ISSUE: **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, INTERNET**

*Statement from Senator Catharine Young (R,C,I – Olean) following Gov. Andrew Cuomo's State of the State Address and Executive Budget Proposal:*

"We need to keep our eye on the ball, and the primary focus during budget negotiations should be jobs, jobs and more jobs. I was happy to hear the Governor speak about small business tax relief and expansion of broadband in rural areas because both of the initiatives will bring us more opportunities. Distribution of economic development funds must benefit rural areas to ensure that every region of the state gets the attention it needs and deserves. There shouldn't be winners and losers when it comes to job growth.

"I will be actively engaged in negotiations for the investment of the billions of dollars of settlement funds because we need infrastructure improvements across my Senate district that are geared toward real economic growth. Now is the time to make progress on finishing Route 219 to enhance safety and bring more economic opportunities to Western New York.

Infrastructure improvements will put people back to work and grow our economy.

“Despite the progress we have made, New York still taxes far too much. Significant property tax relief is needed, and we have to build on the success of the property tax cap. Tax cuts should be accelerated for our hardworking taxpayers because they continue to struggle under the heavy burden of oppressive taxes. We will be analyzing the Governor’s tax proposals very carefully so that all homeowners get the relief they need and deserve.

“Our children should benefit from world class educational opportunities, and the Senate will be evaluating the Governor’s proposals regarding education reform. One of the Senate’s top priorities will be to finally eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment fiscal gimmick that was instituted by Senate Democrats and has put an unbearable financial hit on our school districts.

“Now the real challenge begins as we go through the next several weeks of analysis, budget hearings, and listening to feedback from our constituents. The bottom line is that we need to pass a fiscally-responsible budget that will give every New Yorker the opportunity to succeed.”