



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

Cortland Line To Remain In Hometown

JAMES L. SEWARD April 9, 2015

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CORTLAND, 04/09/15 – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I-Oneonta) today joined Cortland County economic development leaders in crediting a \$200,000 economic development package for helping keep **Cortland Line Company** and its 22 employees in Cortland County.

Cortland Line was on the verge of being sold to an Australian distribution company that would have moved the manufacturing offshore. Incentives offered by local and state agencies were enough, however, to convince new owners to step in and commit to keeping

the company home.

“Cortland Line is a true success story and the continued growth of this century-old business here in Cortland where it was founded is tremendous news,” said Senator Seward, who was critical in securing \$150,000 in Empire State Development Corp. funding. **“This investment by New York State is a key component that will keep Cortland Line here at home, protect jobs, and lead to future expansion.”**

Another \$50,000 grant has been pledged by the [Cortland County Business Development Corporation](#), contingent upon board approval expected next week. The funds will be used to help make numerous improvements at Cortland Line’s manufacturing facility including a major upgrade to the “fly room” which is a central to the company’s success.

“Cortland Line Company has a long and storied history in our community, and we are beyond pleased that the new ownership group is so committed to making sure it remains here, productively, for the long term,” said BDC executive director Garry VanGorder.

“Senator Seward played a key role in our discussions and as always was there for us as a partner in an important economic development initiative.”

“We are committed to staying in Cortland, New York. We are ‘Cortland Line’ not made in Vietnam Line, or made in Virginia Line,” said Cortland Line Executive Manager John Wilson. “Cortland Line is made in New York and will stay that way.”

Cortland Line Company was founded in 1915 by clothing merchant Ray Smith and is now recognized as the oldest fly line company in the United States.

“When I learned Cortland Line could be leaving for a new fishing hole I knew we had to restock the waters in Cortland. Working with New York State ESD, Cortland County BDC, and other local leaders, I was confident that we could put together a competitive economic package to retain this anchor business where it was founded and has flourished. This announcement is the culmination of our efforts,” Seward concluded.

