



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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## 2016 Regional Economic Development Council awards announced today in Albany: Read more about Southern Tier and Finger Lakes funding

THOMAS F. O'MARA December 8, 2016

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**Albany, N.Y., December 8**—State Senator Tom O'Mara (R-C, Big Flats) and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano welcomed today's announcement that the Southern Tier region will be awarded a total of \$60.4 million and the Finger Lakes region \$80.5 million under the sixth round of funding through the state's Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) initiative.

A total of more than \$700 million in economic development awards to support specific regional projects statewide were announced today in Albany. Each of the state's 10 REDCs competed for this latest round of state economic development aid. The Finger Lakes REDC was recognized as a "Top Performer" this year.

O'Mara, a member of the Southern Tier REDC who attended today's awards ceremony at the Empire State Plaza, said, "The Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions continue to stand out. Many regional leaders across the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions continue to make a great difference and build on our foundations of success. This ongoing commitment and work since 2011 assessing our regional strengths and weaknesses, identifying specific economic priorities, and putting in place short- and long-term strategies for growth, has kept us moving toward a stronger and more secure economic future. These regional public-private partnerships are providing the economic leadership we need in this tough and globally competitive economy. Now we have to keep building on these new economic foundations so that our employers and our workers can compete with anyone, anywhere for the jobs of the future and across-the-board economic growth."

Palmesano said, "The Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions have stood out as top performers throughout these competitions over the past several years. This ongoing success is the greatest testament to all of the regional leaders across the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes whose commitment has been unmatched. Without question, our regional councils have earned our victories. They continue to do outstanding work to position the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions for even greater success in the future. Now moving forward

it's going to be up to all of us, at every level of government, to put these incredible resources to good, effective use to revitalize our regional economies.”

Since 2011, including this year, the **Southern Tier REDC** has been awarded a total of approximately \$390 million, and the **Finger Lakes REDC** roughly \$406 million, in annual REDC economic development aid. Each of the regions has been consistently recognized as a “Top Performer” over the past five award cycles.

Additionally in 2015, the Southern Tier and the Finger Lakes REDCs were among the three winners, along with the Central New York REDC, of the **Upstate Revitalization Incentive (URI) economic development aid competition**. Each region received a \$500-million portion of the \$1.5-billion in URI grants awarded for the first time in 2015. The URI awards are being distributed over five years, \$100 million per year.

Also earlier this year, the cities of Elmira and Geneva were each awarded one of the **\$10-million Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) awards** which were distributed to one city in each of the state’s 10 REDC regions. In September, the Elmira Corning Regional Airport was awarded \$40 million as one of two top awardees in the state’s **“Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization”** competition.

Governor Andrew Cuomo and the Legislature established New York's 10 regional economic development councils as part of the 2011-2012 state budget. The councils are aimed at putting in place a more locally based approach for distributing state economic development aid and guide the development of local economic development strategies that will compete for state assistance.

Read more on today’s specific regional project awards at <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov>

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