

OPINION

COMMENTARY | STATE SEN. TOM O'MARA, R-BIG FLATS

In a word, new project signals economic optimism

It is an exciting and incredibly timely development, to put it mildly. I'm focusing this week — because it deserves all of the attention it gets — on Corning Incorporated's recent announcement that its new "Valor Glass" project will create nearly 200 local jobs over the next few years. We're talking about good manufacturing (and research and development) jobs at the Corning Innovation Support Center in Big Flats and the company's Research and Development Facility at Sullivan Park in Erwin.

"Valor" seems a perfect designation for this effort, synonymous as this word is with boldness, dauntlessness, and determination — all of which have been fundamental qualities of the Corning story since its founding in 1851. As written in Corning's statement of its guiding values, "Corning is a leader, not a follower. Our history and our culture impel us to seek a leadership role in our markets, our multiple technologies, our manufacturing processes, our management practices, and our financial performance. The goods and services we produce are never merely ordinary and must always be truly useful."

This has been true since Corning produced the first glass bulbs for Thomas Edison's light and the Pyrex baking dish right up to today's optical fiber and Gorilla glass.

Now, with Valor Glass, Corning Incorporated is leading the way once more in cutting-edge research, global innovation, and the high-tech advanced manufacturing that will ultimately define the 21st

We need to keep making the investments and putting in place the public policies (i.e., tax relief and regulatory reform) at the state level that strengthen New York's overall business climate and, consequently, encourage more and more of this type of private-sector activity, expansion, and growth.

Century economy in so many fundamental ways. Once again, the Southern Tier region is at the heart of the company's progress.

Corning's development and manufacturing of Valor Glass right here in the Chemung Valley is a focal point of the corporation's overall, comprehensive strategy to invest \$500 million and create 1,000 new jobs nationally, which is just the beginning of what the company intends to be billions of dollars in new investment and thousands of new high-tech jobs moving forward.

Valor Glass is described as a "21st-century glass to protect medicines."

It is a revolutionary advance in pharmaceutical glass packaging. The product addresses challenges in the glass injectable pharmaceutical market, thereby enhancing patient protections as well as access to medicines essential for public health.

Its production right here in our region reaffirms, as New York Governor Andrew Cuomo noted at the recent announcement, that "Corning has been a beacon of enterprise and innovation."

Corning CEO Wendell Weeks said, "Valor Glass was invented right here in the Southern Tier so it is only fitting our first significant manufacturing operation be located here... I believe the future of our community is brighter than ever."

Lucky for us. Perhaps most fortunate

of all, the production of this new Valor Glass line goes a long way in further solidifying the Southern Tier as a hub for innovation and advanced manufacturing.

There is simply no overstating that position during an era when regions around the state, the nation, and the world will seek to secure a strong place in the emerging economies of the future.

Yes, Valor Glass is creating good local jobs.

Yes, Valor Glass will spark valuable spinoff economic opportunities.

However, the optimism for the future that Valor Glass inspires may be most meaningful of all.

Now we need to keep building on it.

We need to keep establishing the partnerships between local schools and local industries that will produce the necessary workforce, the fundamental pool of talent needed to keep this growth moving forward.

We need to keep developing our communities as places where people want to live, work, and raise families.

We need to keep making the investments and putting in place the public policies (i.e., tax relief and regulatory reform) at the state level that strengthen New York's overall business climate and, consequently, encourage more and more of this type of private-sector activity, expansion, and growth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Motivated by truth

To the editor,
The other morning I woke with the word TRUTH and its acrostic puzzle flooding my mind, then believed it should be shared.

May our words, thoughts and lives be: (T)ruth telling — (R)ightfully right — (U)prightly uplifting — (T)otally trustworthy, and — (H)onorably honest,
For all to know and see TRUTH may it reside in you and me.

Yes, TRUTH speaks; All things; At all times; Altogether; Accurate; Never fearing.

For God is near Our TRUTH to reveal.

May we keep unvarnished TRUTH in our lives, and may it be genuine and reliable.

Trust and believe; We'll receive; A life worth living; For all to see. Be TRUTHful.

Elouise Hults, Beaver Dams

NY needs to protect water

To the Editor,

Earlier this year, Governor Cuomo established the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council to determine what courses of action the state should take in protecting our most vital resource.

The Council is responsible for making sure that our communities have access to clean and healthy drinking water while also addressing other major water quality issues, including setting limits on extraordinarily dangerous and currently unregulated contaminants that have been linked to increased risks of various cancers, hormonal disorders, and birth defects.

In the face of crumbling water infrastructure, the presence of toxic and industrial pollution, and the slashing of the EPA at the federal level, it is more crucial than ever that New York

takes the strongest measures toward protecting every water supply throughout the state.

We as New Yorkers must use our voice to urge the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council to put forth the strictest health standards for unregulated water contaminants, to grant our water infrastructure an adequate budget for improvement and safety, and to guarantee that we know what is in our drinking water.

This council has been granted an enormous task, and the public must be part of the process to ensure that it is fully completed.

The New York State Drinking Water Quality Council is taking public comments via email, at dwqc@health.ny.gov.

To learn more about the quality of your community's water, visit www.nypirg.org/whatsinmywater.

Ethan Gormley NYPIRG, Local Organizer

A tax reform history lesson

To the Editor,

A wise man once said that if you don't learn from history you're doomed to repeat it.

Yet that's exactly what the Republican House and Senate are about to do with their respective tax reform packages, which may not produce the robust growth they promise to deliver.

There is much to support in both versions: lowering the corporate tax, increasing the standard deduction and increasing the child tax credit, to name a few.

But what both plans fail to do is to substantially cut marginal tax rates for the highest earners.

We should fully protect private property rights, even those of our most well-off

citizens.

I can hear the lamentations of the left already: that's a giveaway to the rich!

Ah no, we're not giving them anything: it was their money to begin with, because they earned it.

There are practical reasons for proposing tax cuts for high earners.

High earners can put more money at risk, because they can afford to lose it.

Therefore, they risk their money to make more money, in ventures that employ thousands and create opportunities for regular folks where none existed before. They create jobs.

History has proven that tax cuts for high earners expand opportunity for all.

President Coolidge cut taxes on the top earners from 73% to 24%. Everyone else's taxes were also cut.

The result? By the end of Coolidge's term, 98% of Americans paid NO income taxes.

The rich paid it all. Per capita income increased by 30%.

Unemployment averaged 3.3%. Gross National Product, a measure of economic growth, grew at a faster rate than ever in U.S. history. The roaring 20s roared because of the Coolidge tax cuts.

Conservatives must always teach why their ideas will work, because they have worked, and other institutions (academia and the news media) will not say it.

Republicans have surrendered two important principles out of abject fear of criticism: one, no matter what your income level, your earnings are your property.

Two, tax cuts for all creates prosperity, as proven by the Coolidge, Kennedy and Reagan tax cuts in the 1920s, 1960s and 1980s.

Mike Morrongiello South Corning

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