



Westchester
County Association

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Business Coalition: Governor Paterson is Right on No More Tax & Fee Hikes

Albany, August 4, 2009 - The National Federation of Independent Business, Unshackle Upstate, Long Island Association and Westchester County Association issued the following joint statement:

“We were encouraged by Gov. Paterson’s admonition today that additional tax and fee increases should not be on the table when the Legislature returns to Albany to address New York’s burgeoning budget deficit. The record tax and fee increases included in the budget enacted in April were a mistake, and to repeat that mistake would worsen our fiscal condition, not improve it.

At the risk of stating the obvious, New York does not face growing budget deficits because taxes in our state were artificially low. We find ourselves in these dire financial straits because for too long state government has spent at a rate that our citizens--and our government--could not afford. That must change, and the time for that change is now.

New York State government needs to do what small business owners do when their revenues are down: spend less. New York needs to grow its way out of this economic downturn and deficit. Raising taxes is not the answer, particularly in a state whose tax burden already leads the nation; cutting and controlling spending and advancing policies that will allow small businesses to create jobs and our economy to grow is.”

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NFIB is the nation’s leading [small business association](#), with offices in Washington, D.C. and all 50 state capitals. Founded in 1943 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, NFIB gives small and independent business owners a voice in shaping the public policy issues that affect their business. NFIB’s powerful network of grassroots activists send their views directly to state and federal lawmakers through our unique member-only ballot, thus playing a critical role in supporting America’s free enterprise system. NFIB’s mission is to promote and protect the right of our members to own, operate and grow their businesses.

Unshackle Upstate is a bi-partisan coalition represents more than 45,000 employers with approximately 1.5 million workers in every region of upstate. The coalition’s website [www.unshackleupstate.com](#) provides a direct way for citizens to send a message to elected officials in Albany.

The Long Island Association--the LIA--is the voice of Long Island. Created over 80 years ago, the LIA brings together business, labor, education, government, not-for-profits, chambers of commerce and civic organizations working to make Long Island an even better place to live, work, raise a family, and do business.

The Westchester County Association ([www.westchester.org](#)) is the preeminent business membership organization in Westchester County. The Association is committed to business advocacy, economic vitality and to providing a strong and clear voice for the interests of businesses on the regional, national and international levels. Its key objectives are: promoting positive economic development in the region; fostering business development; and providing its members with access and interaction with key public and private sector individuals, agencies and organizations.