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For Immediate Release

County Association Calls for Rejection Of Plan Allowing “Double-Dipping” On Buyout and Retirement Benefits

Urges Taxpayers to Let County Legislators Know Proposed Raid on Public Treasury Is Irresponsible and Unacceptable

WHITE PLAINS, NY (June 10, 2010) -- Labeling it as “double-dipping” and a complete abuse of the county’s taxpayers, The Westchester County Association, the region’s leading business organization, today called on the County Board of Legislators to reject the concept of allowing county employees to take financial buyouts and retirement buyouts from both the county and the State of New York.

The group called on its members and all residents to let the legislators know that the proposed sanctioning of this “raid on the public treasury” is unacceptable and must not be permitted.

The Association, which has been spearheading a movement to bring fiscal responsibility at both the state and county levels of government through its Call to Action Campaign, said that the idea of passing special legislation that effectively authorizes “double-dipping” was a blatant example of the kind of out-of-control spending that has led the county and state into a financial chasm.

“It is almost inconceivable that any elected official would even entertain anything along these lines,” the Association said. “Common sense tells you that employees should be able to choose one but not both ways of opting out of their employment. Under either the county or the state plan, the buyouts being proposed are very generous. What possible justification is there for allowing county employees to avail themselves of both plans? There is none.”

The Association also criticized the abruptness of the announcement by Board of Legislator Chairman Ken Jenkins to schedule a public hearing on only a few days notice for 9 a.m. on Monday. “The Chairman has repeatedly stated over his first five months as the legislative leader that he wanted to create an ‘epidemic of cooperation’ with the business community and Westchester’s taxpayers. Not only has this not been the case, but the Chairman has gone in the exact opposite direction by repeatedly seeking to thwart virtually every serious effort to reduce the size and cost of county government spending.”

The WCA concluded: “This is an unprecedented action that undermines the entire effort to allow county employees to opt out of their jobs with a very generous buyout plan and in the process save millions of dollars. We strongly urge all Westchester residents to make it clear to their county legislators that this ill-conceived “double-dipping” plan must be rejected outright.”

Those who may be uncertain which legislative district they are in can find out by going to the WCA’s Call to Action Campaign website, www.CallToActionCampaign.org

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