



FRANK K. SKARTADOS  
Assemblyman 104<sup>th</sup> District  
Dutchess, Orange, and  
Ulster Counties

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STATE OF NEW YORK  
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Tourism, Parks, Arts & Sports Development  
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January 17, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I respectfully urge you to include Dutchess and Orange counties in your proposal to eliminate the corporate income tax rate for upstate manufacturers. By permitting these counties to share in this vital tax relief effort will help bring back manufacturing and create much-needed jobs in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

The City of Newburgh in Orange County and the City of Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County, once great manufacturing cities, became hard hit when the factories moved out. Your visionary corporate tax rate will help bring back manufacturing, generate jobs and rejuvenate the region.

Throughout the past year, I have been touring businesses, not-for-profits and farms across the region. Business leaders have repeatedly expressed concerns about the state's high tax burden. Eliminating the corporate income tax rate for manufacturers in Dutchess and Orange Counties would not just help manufacturers, but the entire economy of the region.

The United States Census in 2010 ranked locations in NY by their per capita income and identified the City of Newburgh in Orange County to be number 1011 out of 1051 locations – placing it on the very bottom of the list. The City of Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County was number 804 on the list – placing it in the bottom 25 percent.

The high unemployment rates strikes at the heart of the problem: people need jobs. In August 2013, the rate of unemployment in the City of Newburgh was 10.0 percent, while the rate in Poughkeepsie was 8.3 percent. The region lost many jobs when Danskammer power plant in the Town of Newburgh closed in 2012. The 2013 closure of Beacon Correctional led to further job losses across the region.

Manufacturing firms in Dutchess and Orange County have the additional expense of being charged the MTA payroll tax. This burden is especially hard hitting against manufacturing firms

that hire large numbers of employees, precisely the type of business you have recognized that we need to nurture.

Bringing back manufacturing to the Mid-Hudson Valley is how we jump-start the region's economy. Let's repeal the corporate income taxes on manufacturers in Dutchess and Orange County. Jobs are Priority #1.

I am eager to work with you. I believe Dutchess and Orange counties, as well as the cities of Beacon, Poughkeepsie and Newburgh, and the entire Mid-Hudson Valley can be lifted by eliminating the corporate income tax on manufacturing, as these towns, cities and counties, on the shores of the mighty Hudson River, can once again become the economic and symbolic backbone of the great State of New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Skartados". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and "S".

Frank Skartados  
Member of the New York State Assembly  
104<sup>th</sup> District