

Assemblyman Sean Ryan

Serving the 149th Assembly District

Summer 2014



- Supporting Local businesses
- Investing in Education
- Increasing Affordable Housing
- Protecting our local Environment
- Fighting the Heroin Epidemic

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I recently finished a very successful Legislative Session in Albany. Earlier this year we passed a fourth on-time and balanced state budget. This is the first time in decades that a budget has been passed on-time for four years in a row, and it shows that New York State has turned a corner towards progress. Four years ago our state had a budget deficit of over \$10 billion. Today, we are on track for a \$2 billion surplus, thanks to the responsible, bi-partisan budgets that have been passed. In addition, I was able to pass 10 bills during this session, focusing on important issues for our community.

I have also been all over the 149th District, discussing important issues and meeting with local businesses and organizations. From the progress along the Buffalo waterfront, to new investment at the Hamburg library, to new affordable housing in Lackawanna's First Ward, good things are happening throughout the 149th District. I stopped by Staub Manufacturing in Hamburg recently, as they celebrated their expansion. Staub is staying in New York, expanding their business and creating good paying jobs. This is great news for Hamburg and all of Western New York. In Buffalo, HARBORCenter is taking shape, and the cranes are in the air working to build new investments throughout the area.

It has been an honor to represent Buffalo, Lackawanna, and Hamburg in the State Assembly. We have made a lot of progress as a state and as a region in recent years, and I am going to keep working hard every day to represent you and be your voice in state government.

Sincerely,

Sean M Ryan

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Supporting Craft Beverage Makers

I recently visited Lockhouse Distillery in Buffalo to discuss a new state law that will remove burdensome regulations to help strengthen and support New York's growing craft beverage industry. Lockhouse Distillery has a "Farm Distillery" license from New York State, and uses 75 percent New York grown crops to produce craft vodka. Lockhouse opened in 2013, and is the first distillery to open in the City of Buffalo since the prohibition era. New York State has been working diligently to find creative solutions to assist craft beverage makers across the state. Many of our old prohibition-era laws have been an impediment to growth, and this latest package of legislation will spur new investment and expansion of breweries, wineries, cideries, and distilleries right here in Western New York. Since the creation of the new Farm Brewery and Distillery program, dozens of these businesses have opened up across the state, including the Hamburg Brewing Company in the Town of Hamburg.

Investing in Education

The 2014-15 state budget increases school aid by \$1.1 billion, which is \$551 million over the executive budget proposal. Included with this increase is \$251 million in additional funding for Foundation Aid and \$602 million in restorations to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), helping to reduce the negative financial impact on schools statewide.

The budget also incorporates recent legislation passed by the Assembly that helps fix the flawed implementation of Common Core. It protects students from unfair consequences based on test results and ensures the security of sensitive student data. To help students afford the rising cost of college, we also took action to increase funding for TAP for the first time in 14 years. Every child in New



York deserves to benefit from a great education, and this year's state budget represents New York's largest investment in our children's future in recent memory.



The Buffalo Billion

This year's state budget funded the remaining \$680 million of the Buffalo Billion. This historic investment is already paying off, and more good news is sure to come in the months ahead. From the medical campus, to the waterfront, to the new high-tech businesses like IBM opening up shop in Buffalo, the Buffalo Billion is making the investments we need, and creating jobs. The Riverbend project is especially exciting for Western New York. Thanks to the Buffalo Billion, we are literally moving jobs from overseas, and into Western New York. The Riverbend project will create hundreds of jobs in the growing solar energy technology field, and will be a real boost for our region.



More Affordable Housing in WNY

PUSH Buffalo has been working diligently to improve housing on Buffalo's West Side, and I was proud to join PUSH and others recently to break ground on their latest project along the Massachusetts Avenue corridor. PUSH will be building 46 new affordable housing units, thanks to over \$12 million from New York State and the City of Buffalo. This project is a win-win for our community, helping to reduce blight, and build affordable housing that is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. I also recently announced over \$1.4 million for affordable housing in Erie County. This funding from New York State will help to improve housing on Buffalo's West Side, and in Lackawanna's First Ward.

Scajaquada Redesign

The redesign of the Scajaquada corridor in Buffalo is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fix a historic mistake. The State Department of Transportation's current plans for the Scajaquada redesign do not live up to the community's wants or needs. There needs to be more of a focus on pedestrian access and safety, walkability, and the speed limit needs to be lowered even further than the DOT is recommending. I will continue to advocate for changes to the redesign plan, and I thank everyone who has made their voice heard about this very important issue. I hope you will visit my website and sign the petition to improve the plan for the Scajaquada Corridor redesign.



Combating the Heroin Epidemic

During the final week of the legislative session, the Assembly and Senate passed an important package of legislation to deal with New York's growing heroin epidemic.

Heroin is devastating our communities, has become a huge problem in New York State, and statistics show that it's only getting worse, especially among young people. Almost every day we hear another tragic report of a life lost to heroin or a family torn apart by drug abuse. The legislation increases awareness and prevention efforts, ensures that the lifesaving antidote naloxone is used safely and effectively, increases access to treatment programs, and strengthens state law to prevent the distribution of illegal drugs. The measures we passed will save lives and help ensure that more people can get the help and support they need to overcome addiction.





to offer 10 days of promotional prices for hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. These reduced prices build upon efforts last year, which saw successfully streamlined fishing and hunting licenses, reduced fees, and made fishing licenses valid for one year from the date of purchase. The budget also includes \$6 million for 50 new access projects involving 380,000 acres for fishing, hunting, hiking, canoeing, bird watching and other forms of recreational activities throughout the state. I also participated in a public forum about the importance of bringing crossbows back to New York. I made sure that this year's budget incorporates my legislation which allows the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to once again regulate the use of crossbows in New York State. This is a great victory for sportsmen across our state, especially for senior citizens and those who are disabled, who have difficulty with the physical demands of standard bow hunting.

Expanding Opportunities for Hunting and Fishing

The 2014-15 state budget also reduces fees for seven-day fishing licenses, from \$31 to \$28 for non-residents and \$13 to \$12 for residents; increases the number of authorized statewide free fishing days to eight from two; authorizes DEC



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Protecting the Environment

This year's budget continues a commitment to protecting New York's environment for future generations by increasing funding to the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) by \$9 million – for a total of \$162 million. In addition, the budget plan also provides \$92.5 million to support capital investments in our state parks. The Assembly also passed legislation that would require the DEC to establish limits on greenhouse gas emissions and create a greenhouse gas reporting system. We owe it to future generations to take better care of our planet. Damage has already been done to our environment, but we can work together to provide the necessary resources to change course and protect it.