

January 7, 2010

State of the State reaction

"It's nice to hear the governor talk about reform. We really want to see action now. ... I was pleased that he talked about economic development and jobs. I was very concerned about what I didn't hear about him talk about, which was mandate relief."

Maggie Brooks Monroe County executive

"I agree with the governor that it is time for fiscal reform in New York by instituting a spending cap and reducing taxes before our economic woes get any worse. This reform begins by saying 'no' to all new taxes and fees; economic recovery cannot be obtained by raising taxes on the hard-working people of New York."

Assemblyman Bill Reilich R-Greece

"There's no question the state's financial problems are immense and he rightly devoted the right amount of attention. The second thing he talked about that I was pleased about was the economy. ... (On Paterson's message of reform) I wouldn't give a blanket endorsement (but) on the general subject of changing Albany, I couldn't agree more."

Assemblyman Joseph Morelle D-Irondequoit

"New York is going broke, and people continue to leave the state in unprecedented numbers. Right now the governor is talking a good game, even calling out special interests. But this is just what we heard last year, and last year we had the biggest budget blunder in our history. While the governor is right to call out members of the Legislature — many of whom have constantly ignored the wishes of their people — he must keep in mind that New Yorkers want their financial burden drastically lowered, period."

Brian Sampson executive director, Unshackle Upstate

"He certainly was saying the right things; he was talking tough, clearly identified the issues. The question is: Can he get it done? Will the Legislature work with him? ... The reform Albany piece — it would be a dream if we could get a quarter of that in place."

Sandy Parker president, Rochester Business Alliance

"There are several problems facing our state and I wholeheartedly agree that sweeping ethics reform is necessary. However, I'm waiting to see the specifics of any legislation which might be presented. ... I like the idea of introducing tax credits for job creation, but again, I want to see exactly how the state Assembly and Senate will do this before passing final judgment."

U.S. Rep. Eric Massa D-Corning