

## Unshackle Upstate urges state Legislature action

By [THOMAS ADAMS](#) - 1/14/2011 3:17:50 PM

The Unshackle Upstate coalition of businesses on Thursday called on the state Legislature to reduce spending, taxes, fees, assessments, mandates and borrowing.

Legislative leaders, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, have indicated in recent remarks their understanding that it is time to enact measures to get New York's economy on track," said Brian Sampson, the coalition's Rochester-based executive director, in a statement.

"We strongly encourage the Legislature to review our agenda and give it serious consideration throughout the legislative session and budget negotiations," Sampson said.

The agenda calls for a property tax cap of 2 percent, a repeal of \$850 million in taxes and assessments enacted on health insurance companies, and a repeal of the \$525 million of increased energy assessments.

It also calls on legislators to cut expenses and to not add to the state's debt burden.

"The upstate business community is looking for a sign that state government is ready to invest in growing our economy and creating jobs," said Sandra Parker, president of the Rochester Business Alliance Inc. and an Unshackle Upstate co-founder.

"Acting on the items outlined in Unshackle Upstate's policy agenda would be a very positive sign, one that would go a long way toward convincing the job creators that New York is indeed open for business."