

Alesi named to governor's small-business advisory board

By Linda Quinlan, staff writer

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Irondequoit, N.Y. — Sen. Jim Alesi, R-Perinton, was confirmed by the state Senate on Thursday, June 3, as a member of the New York State Small Business Advisory Board. He is believed to be the first sitting member of the state Legislature to become a member of the 15-member board.

Colleagues on both sides of the aisle congratulated Alesi on his unanimous, and unprecedented, appointment.

Alesi represents the 55th District, which includes Chili, East Rochester, Henrietta, Irondequoit, Mendon, Penfield, Perinton, Pittsford, Riga, Rush, Wheatland and parts of the city of Rochester.

"I am proud — and honored — for the opportunity to serve the businesses, entrepreneurs, employees and residents of New York state in a new, exciting role as a member of the state Small Business Advisory Board," Alesi said. "As a former small-business owner myself, I know firsthand, the hard work and daily rigors of owning and operating a small business ... and I look forward to partnering with other members of the board to create a more business-friendly environment in New York state."

Alesi grew up in East Rochester, has a bachelor's degree in English from St. John Fisher College and operated his own small business, All State Commercial Laundries.

As a state senator, Alesi served many years as the chairman of the Senate Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business Committee. He has received numerous awards for his work with business.

The primary responsibilities of the advisory board are the identification of resources that will facilitate the growth of small businesses in New York, and the elimination of obstacles that impede growth, through the recommendation of changes to policies or regulations. The advisory board also serves as a catalyst for creating and maintaining a greater awareness of the issues important to the sustainability of small businesses.

"Senator Alesi's addition to the Governor's Small Business Advisory Board is welcome news to New York's job creators and entrepreneurs," said Mike Elmendorf, New York State director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), a small-business advocacy association. "His will be an important voice on the board."

Sandra Parker, president and chief executive director of the Rochester Business Alliance, added: "Small businesses are the future of our state and the backbone of our economy, especially in upstate ... Senator Alesi knows the upstate economy well and will represent our interests."