

2013 NCA EDUCATION AND OUTREACH VICTORIES!

(as of 6/26/13)

✓ **Successful Education and Outreach in Economic Development:**

NCA Advocacy Action	Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NCA supports the activities of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council. We embrace the opportunity to develop a vision and strategies based on input from the people and organizations that know their area best. It is now critical to bring key economic development programs, such as the Excelsior Jobs, into compliance with the same spirit of regionalism. NY is a diverse state; hence programs with an “one-size-fits-all” approach are not the best mechanism to affect positive job growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Start-Up NY” legislation included provisions to reduce by 50% the job thresholds in the Excelsior Jobs Program; Increases the Investment Tax Credit from 2% to 5% and allows for proportional reduction in tax credits if a qualified business does not meet 100% of its job target.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NCA supports the creation of a statewide network of university affiliated or college affiliated and private sector affiliated innovation hot spots in New York state to support start-up companies and those in the early stage of development to promote job creation, entrepreneurship and technology transfer, as well as to provide support services to hot spot tenants, including, but not limited to, business planning, management assistance, financial-packaging, linkages to financing and technology services, and coordination with other sources of assistance. One of these hot spots <u>must be</u> located in the North Country region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2013-2014 Enacted Budget contained provisions related to the establishment of 10 Regional Innovation Hot Spots. Five of these Hot Spots will be awarded as part of the Round 3 Regional Council competition.

✓ **Successful Education and Outreach for Industrial Development Agencies:**

NCA Advocacy Action	Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NCA called for striking <u>the Governor’s budget provision related to IDAs providing the State Sales Tax</u> to projects they assist. In lieu of this provision, the NCA recommends restoring the Retail Prohibitions that sunset in 2008 with the addition of community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2013-14 Enacted Budget did not contain the sales tax provision that would have be detrimental to IDAs granting state sales tax on projects they assist. However, it did contain restoration of the IDA Retail

development, adaptive reuse and Brownfield Opportunity Area projects to the list of allowed retail exemptions.	Prohibition.
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✓ **Successful Education and Outreach in the Passage of Energy Proposals the Benefit the Region:**

NCA Advocacy Action	Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NCA <i>opposed</i> the proposed extension of the Temporary State Energy and Utility Service Conservation Assessment, commonly known as the 18a assessment for an additional five years. This temporary assessment, which raises the cost of energy for businesses in the North Country and New York State, is due to expire in March 2014. The expiration of this onerous surcharge will provide necessary reduction in energy cost for North Country businesses, making them more competitive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2013 -2014 Enacted Budget contained provisions to lower and eventually phase out the Article 18-A tax over three years starting in 2014-15.

✓ **Successful Education and Outreach in Expanding Broadband Access to the Region:**

NCA Advocacy Action	Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NCA understands that access to advanced broadband telecommunication services is an essential infrastructure requirement that is no less important to economic development as gas, electricity, and a highway system. Expanding the fiber optic cable network further out into the communities located in the North Country is an important strategy of the Regional Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiber optic build-outs in Franklin, St. Lawrence and Hamilton counties started in the first round of priority projects (2012) and are continuing under the second round of CFA funding (2013). The NCA also supports the initiatives funded by the CONNECT-NY program.