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2016 NCA EDUCATION AND OUTREACH VICTORIES!
 (as of 12/31/2016)

✓ Successful Education and Outreach in Economic Development:

NCA Advocacy Action	Results
<p>The NCA <i>supports</i> the Governor’s continued promotion of the regional council process and <i>supports</i> the additional executive budget proposals for \$750 million for Round VI of the REDC Competition; \$200 million for the URI Runner Ups to fund top projects; and \$100 million for Downtown Revitalization Program.</p>	<p>The 2016-17 Enacted budget extended the regional council process. It included \$200 million for the URI to support projects in the remaining 4 eligible Upstate regions; and \$100 million for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative.</p>
<p>The NCA <i>supports</i> the Governor’s Executive Budget proposal to invest in infrastructure across New York State.</p>	<p>The 2016-17 Enacted budget utilized \$115 million from money settlements for infrastructure improvements. An additional \$200 million from money settlements approved for transportation infrastructure projects across the state. Enacted budget also increased capital funding for municipal water infrastructure projects.</p>
<p>The NCA <i>supports</i> the Governor’s Executive Budget Proposal to reduce the net income tax rate from 6.5% to 4% for small businesses with net income less than \$390,000.</p>	<p>The 2016-17 Enacted budget provides reduced tax rates over the course of eight years for middle-income and small businesses. When fully-phased in the range of marginal tax rates on middle incomes will be reduced from between 5.9% and 6.65% to between 5.5% and 6%.</p>
<p>The NCA <i>supports</i> the extension of the Excelsior Jobs Program for an additional 5 years.</p>	<p>The 2016-17 Enacted budget extended the Excelsior Jobs Program for two years.</p>
<p>The NCA <i>supports</i> funding to Technology Development Organizations (TDOs) and Manufacturing Extension Programs (MEPs)</p>	<p>The 2016-2017 Enacted budget continued funding to these programs.</p>

✓ Successful Education and Outreach for Workforce Development and Education:

NCA Advocacy Action	Results
The NCA <i>supports</i> the progressive workforce development initiatives to address the skills gap.	The 2016-17 Enacted budget provided farm workforce retention credit.
The NCA <i>opposes</i> any consideration for future minimum wage adjustments without consideration for a regionally-weighted minimum wage that takes into consideration a region's existing wages for a specific industry.	The Governor enacted legislation on April 4, 2016 enacting a statewide \$15 minimum wage plan that will be phased in. For the North Country the implementation provided for a tiered approach. The minimum wage will increase to \$9.70 at the end of 2016 then another \$.70 each year after until reaching \$12.50 pm 12/31/2020 after which will continue to increase to \$15 on an indexed schedule to be set by the Director of the Division of Budget in consultation with the Department of Labor.

✓ Environment

NCA Advocacy Action	Results
The NCA <i>supports</i> increasing the Environmental Protection Fund to \$300 Million.	The Enacted 2016-17 Executive budget provided \$300 million for the Environmental Protection Fund.

Other.....

NCA Advocacy Action	Results
The NCA <i>supports</i> legislation that will allow recipients of old Urban Development Corporation grants used to create Regional Revolving Loan Trust Funds to be allowed to keep and utilize interest income for administration.	Senator Ritchie introduced legislation at the end of the session that did not proceed in 2016. Senator Ritchie is tracking for the 2017-2018 budget session.