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Our beloved state is in trouble. We've lost our way with fiscal responsibility. Our state budget is increasing at several times the rate of inflation. To fund this we create all kinds of additional taxes not the least of which is a brand new "temporary tax" on energy. The primary issue with our state is that it's not business friendly. We provide endless sums of money for entitlement programs. To pay for that we ratchet up the cost of doing business. The end result is exemplified by our revenues to date in 2009. Despite all the increased fees we're way off on our YTD actual revenue results. People aren't stupid. They'll either figure out a way to avoid these fees or they'll relocate their family or business. I've been in the energy business for over 30 years. I currently oversee the purchase of approximately \$4 million of electricity and natural gas per year. Our well meaning Governor has imposed his 15 by 15 plan upon us. He is funding this by imposing yet another tax on our electrical usage. In effect he's subsidizing a move to uneconomic and undependable renewable sources of energy. Other states are already eating our lunch. This will only make things worse. I daresay if we are to be successful, growing existing businesses and bringing new ones here, we should be using more, not less energy. We should all care about our environment. I remember well the first Earth Day in 1970. Since then our environment has improved exponentially. However, we don't need to recklessly pursue environmental nirvana by further increasing the cost of doing business here. Our priority should be to lower the cost of energy and of course do so in an environmentally responsible way. Existing legislation prevents most businesses in our geographic area from accessing clean hydropower from the Niagara Power Plant. How silly is that? Natural gas reserves keep growing - this increased supply should lower delivered costs. Our energy plan should make sure that happens. Wind and solar are intriguing but neither are economically viable without huge subsidies. Steelwinds, one of our most significant windpower projects is visible from my window. The wind isn't always reliable to generate electricity and each unit has been rebuilt several times. Wind and solar are feel good energy sources. I say let the federal government subsidize these dreams until they are economically sound on their own! Where are we with nuclear? Nuclear power generation has made incredible strides. The waste problem has been eradicated and the size of plants has shrunk to nothing. The only things holding us back from using this incredible energy source are unfounded public perception and NRC licensing costs that are unconscionable. If the socialist state of France can safely generate 80% plus of its power from nuclear reactors, surely the Empire State can! My frustration is evident. I feel we can do so much better but we let irrational emotions guide us. If we intelligently craft this plan we can responsibly foster business growth and in turn start digging out of our financial pit. I stand ready to

help craft our future energy plan. How can I help?