



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF ALBANY
CITY HALL
24 EAGLE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207

GERALD D. JENNINGS
MAYOR



October 20, 2011

Gavin J. Donohue
Chair Albany Convention Center Authority
C/O Albany Convention Center Authority (ACCA)
386 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Re: New York State Convention Center/Albany

Dear Mr. Donohue:

Supporting the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for the New York State Convention Center/Albany project brings full circle the decade's long efforts led by my office to support key economic development projects in the areas of greatest need within the capital city.

Albany needs this important infrastructure component and the citizens of New York State will derive direct benefit from having for the first time in one location, a full service contemporary convention and meeting facility at the seat of state government.

Placed centrally in an area of significant urban need, the convention center will transform the economic landscape, providing critical construction jobs for a period of two years in the near term and when open, good paying employment for the citizens, while generating over \$60 M in visitor spending, \$3.7 M in new tax revenue, and ending the yearly pattern of lost business due to a lack of adequate facilities, in excess of \$20 M in 2011 alone.

Fully supporting this project as I do, believing in the economic benefit that will result, it is important to move ahead with the New York State Convention Center/Albany. To do so will take full advantage of the historically low financing rates, benefit from the significantly reduced construction costs, and time the opening of the center within 2013-2014 NYS Budget cycle to coincide with the recovering convention and meeting industry, the early signs of which are beginning at existing facilities around the country.

The Regional Economic Development Council can support the CFA made by the Albany Convention Center Authority (ACCA) at no expense to other projects due the current \$75 M ESDC grant. The accompanying private hotel development is a necessary component to the success of the center and the future of Albany, as will be the Intermodal/Parking facility.

Gavin J. Donohue
October 20, 2011
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The importance of this project to the city, to the region, and to the State, cannot be overstated. The capital region is experiencing significant growth in the major integrated economic sectors of education, technology, medicine and industry. We need to invest in key elements of infrastructure, like the convention center, that are necessary to remain competitive and prepare for our future.

In supporting the New York State Convention Center/Albany, I seek to address what is a critical quality of life issue and make a strong statement about maintaining the economic viability of Albany.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald D. Jennings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Hon. Gerald D. Jennings
Mayor of Albany



DANIEL P. MCCOY
CHAIRMAN

COUNTY OF ALBANY
COUNTY LEGISLATURE
112 STATE STREET, ROOM 710
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
(518) 447-7168 - FAX (518) 447-5695
WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

PAUL T. DEVANE
CLERK

October 24, 2011

Gavin Donohue
Chairman of the Board
Albany Convention Center Authority
The R. B. Wing Building
386 Broadway
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Chairman Donohue:

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed New York State Convention Center to be located in downtown Albany, New York.

As Chairman of the Albany County Legislature, I am keenly aware of the positive economic impact that a project such as the Convention Center will have, not only in the city of Albany, but the County of Albany as well. The projected \$60 million per year in business and commerce combined with the creation of hundreds of jobs during the construction phase and into its operation, the project will give Albany County a much needed boost toward fiscal solvency.

On a personal note, I would encourage the Convention Center Authority to use whatever influence or jurisdiction it may have to support "family friendly" additions to the complex, such as an IMAX Theater or an Aquarium. I believe that other communities have seen great success in enhancing their Convention Center/Arena's with such venues.

I am proud to support the Consolidated Funding Application for the New York State Convention Center, and I commend you and the entire Albany Convention Center Authority for your commitment to push this project to completion.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. McCoy
Chairman
Albany County Legislature



Carm Basile
Chief Executive Officer
518-437-6840
carm@cdta.org

October 27, 2011

Mr. Gavin J. Donohue
Chair, Albany Convention Center Authority Board
Albany Convention Center Authority (ACCA)
386 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. ^{GAVIN}Donohue:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed New York State Convention Center/Albany.

The Convention Center project will be transformational and is extremely important to the economic sustainability of Capital Region Businesses. It will result in hundreds of new jobs once completed. In conjunction with the convention center, the privately developed hotel and publicly partnered intermodal/parking facility will generate much needed new revenue through hotel taxes and visitor spending.

Starting the convention center at this time will offer savings from historically low construction costs and favorable interest rates. To delay will continue the annual loss of an estimated \$20 million in convention business due to a lack of adequate facilities, and further postpone the benefit from an estimated \$60 million in annual visitor spending from the full service convention and meeting facility that is so needed in Albany.

Our region is experiencing significant growth, and having a convention center in the capital city is important to the continued success in such major economic sectors. This type of investment in key elements of infrastructure is necessary now to maintain our competitive stance and prepare us for a healthy future.

We believe that the New York State Convention Center/Albany is necessary to the economic viability of Albany and would welcome the decision to move ahead with the project.

Cordially

Carm Basile
Chief Executive Officer

- Denise A. Figueroa
Chairwoman
Albany County
- Joseph M. Spairana
Vice Chairman
Rensselaer County
- Norman L. Miller
Secretary
Schenectady County
- Arthur F. Young, Jr.
Treasurer
Albany County
- Lisa A. Ballout
Saratoga County
- Mark G. Gerling
Labor Representative
- Georgeanna N. Lynch
Saratoga County
- Thomas M. Owens
Albany County
- David M. Stackrow
Rensselaer County
- Carm Basile
Chief Executive Officer



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
State University of New York

College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering

Alain E. Kaloyeros, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President and Chief Executive Officer

October 18, 2011
Gavin Donohue
Chairman of the Board
Albany Convention Center Authority
The R.B. Wing Building
386 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairman:

On behalf of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) of the University at Albany – SUNY, it is my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the proposed New York State Convention Center in downtown Albany, NY.

A \$4.8 billion dollar investment recently announced by Governor Andrew Cuomo to develop next-generation computer chip technology, cements the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) as the global leader in nanotechnology research, development and commercialization. Our NanoTech Complex has attracted more than 250 global corporate partners in nanotechnology, clean energy and biohealth, among others, and is the most advanced research complex at any university in the world.

As we continue to attract partners, graduate and undergraduate students, and employ world-class researchers, educators and engineers, a state-of-the-art convention center that combines functionality with cutting-edge technology should be part of New York's high-tech strategy. A convention center will support our efforts at CNSE and further assist Tech Valley and New York State in maintaining and advancing its competitive advantage.

I commend you and the entire Albany Convention Center Authority for your commitment to push this project forward. It is a long-term investment that will have a positive impact on the Capital Region.

Sincerely,

Dean Fuleihan
Executive Vice President
CNSE



CENTER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

anything's possible™

October 17, 2011

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson
Co-Chair
Capital Region Economic Development Council
Rensselaer
110 8th Street
Troy, NY 12180

Michael J. Castellana
Co-Chair
Capital Region Economic Development Council
SEFCU
700 Patroon Creek Blvd.
Albany, NY 12206

Dear Dr. Jackson and Mr. Castellana:

On behalf of the Center for Economic Growth (CEG) Board of Directors, I'm writing to express CEG's support for the proposed New York State Convention Center/Albany.

The Center for Economic Growth is a private not-for-profit economic development organization with over 300 members in business, government, education, and the nonprofit sector serving 11 counties in the Capital Region. Since 1987, the Center for Economic Growth has been committed to fostering visionary economic growth throughout the Capital Region, as well as a significant portion of the Tech Valley corridor in New York State.

As the region's economic development organization with a focus on workforce development, job creation and attracting new business to the region, we believe this project is particularly important to the economic sustainability and vibrancy of Capital Region businesses. The New York State Convention Center/Albany will generate thousands of direct and indirect new jobs and once completed, will also produce millions of dollars in revenue through hotel taxes and visitor spending. In addition, the convention center will drive additional business to existing Capital Region venues, which will have a significant impact on the region's economic footprint.

Completion of the convention center at this time is important because construction costs are lower than they have been in several years, interest rates are favorable, and further project delays result in an estimated \$20 million per year in lost convention business & an additional \$60 million in lost visitor spending due to the lack of contemporary convention space in Albany.

An important part of CEG's agenda is to work together with other regional partners like ACCANY to realize the synergies that exist both within each region and through linkages between regions.

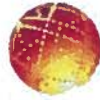
As a partner supporting this strategy, CEG is committed to ongoing partnering with Albany Convention Center Authority to move forward with economic development strategies that result in technology investments, job creation & retention, and building a vibrant economic development climate and ecosystem that will lead to sustainable communities for businesses and working families. I urge you to support the Albany Convention Center Authority New York State Convention Center project request.

Very truly yours,

David Buicko
Chairman, Center for Economic Growth

Cc: Gavin J. Donohue, Chair Albany Convention Center Authority (ACCA) | 386 Broadway | Albany, NY 12207

a NIST | Network
MEP | Affiliate 



GLOBALFOUNDRIES

October 21, 2011

Gavin J. Donohue,
Chair Albany Convention Center Authority Board
C/O Albany Convention Center Authority (ACCA)
386 Broadway,
Albany, NY 12207

Re: New York State Convention Center/Albany

Dear Mr. Donohue:

I am writing to express the support of GLOBALFOUNDRIES for the proposed New York State Convention Center/Albany.

While many have expressed their view, and rightly so, that the Convention Center will be a transformational project which is important to the economic sustainability of Capital Region businesses and will have an immediate impact at the onset of construction, we believe that the Center also fills a vital role in what is an existing gap in the facilities required in the region's growing tech valley.

As the region grows and attracts more tech companies, the number of support and ancillary unrelated business grow as well. This "clustering effect" is a well known product of the growth of tech industries in regions throughout the US and the rest of the world where large scale semiconductor production facilities exist. A key asset and requirement in such regions is space to accommodate large meetings/conventions of all types and to efficiently accommodate all participants. The Capital Region of NY is lacking such a facility and the proposed project in Albany will answer that need.

The short and long term economic benefits associated with the project are a given and the project will provide the City of Albany and the region with an obvious and much needed economic boost. In addition, as Albany and the Capital Region steps on the international stage in the tech industry, it is imperative that we have a modern convention venue capable of handling all aspects of a modern day convention. We believe that the proposed project meets that need.

The Region will be experiencing growth in all sectors as a result of the "tech boom". GLOBALFOUNDRIES believes that the proposed NYS Convention Center in Albany is needed and will promote further growth and economic activity by being able to efficiently facilitate large group meetings and exhibitions in downtown Albany. Investment in this project will enable the city and region to better leverage other assets so as to be able to improve the economic future for all stakeholders and GLOBALFOUNDRIES would support the decision to move ahead with this important project.

Sincerely,

Mike Russo
US Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs,
GLOBALFOUNDRIES

October 19, 2011

Mr. Gavin J. Donohue
Chair, Albany Convention Center Authority Board
386 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. Donohue:

The Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce wishes to express its support for the New York State Convention Center in Albany.

Now is the time to build the New York State Convention Center. The Capital Region is experiencing significant growth and development and has earned recognition as Tech Valley. From long-standing businesses, to high-tech start-ups, to the cutting edge innovation at GE, the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and RPI, to the construction of GlobalFoundries, New York's Tech Valley is on the global map. These new businesses bring new opportunities for conferences and meetings of all sizes, many that cannot be met with current facilities in the region.

The Convention Center would meet the need for convention and meeting space in the greater Capital Region and eliminate the decades-long pattern of lost business valued at \$20 million each year. It is estimated that the Convention Center would generate more than \$60 million in visitor spending per year and induce more than \$3 million in additional taxes.

The Convention Center would create 300 high-paying construction jobs and result in nearly 1,000 impacted long-term jobs when complete. In addition, the project would create private-sector hotel investment and development opportunities, with 180 hospitality industry jobs coinciding with the opening of the facility.

Thank you for your continued leadership to move this vital economic development project forward.

Sincerely,



Mark N. Eagan, CCE
President and CEO