

News from

The Senate Republican Majority



Senator Dean G. Skelos, Majority Leader

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**FOR RELEASE: Immediate, Thursday, October 23, 2008
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SENATE ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION TO PREPARE GENESEE COUNTY SITE FOR HIGH TECH MANUFACTURING AND JOB CREATION

Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator Mary Lou Rath and County Legislator Mike Ranzenhofer today announced \$1 million in capital funding for the Western New York Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP), a 1,200 shovel-ready site in the Town of Alabama in Genesee County that has the potential to be the next mega-site for high tech manufacturing in Upstate New York.

“Development of the Western New York STAMP site is a major step to attracting major high tech manufacturing companies that will create good, high-paying jobs in Western New York so our children can have career opportunities right here,” Senator Skelos said. “The announcement that AMD will build a computer chip factory in Saratoga County was major news around the world and, with this announcement today, we are setting the stage for Genesee County to be the next global success story. I applaud Senator Rath for laying the groundwork for this project and Mike Ranzenhofer who is extremely supportive of this effort to create jobs and build a stronger economy.”

“Having been part of the developmental stages of this project, I share in the sense of achievement with all the visionary leaders of Genesee County who have made this day possible,” said Senator Mary Lou Rath (R-C-I, Williamsville). “The WNY STAMP project represents the culmination of the efforts we have made over the last several years, such as infrastructure improvements, to bolster Genesee County’s ability to attract new businesses and new jobs. Projects like this could not happen without experienced leaders at the local level, similar in many ways to Erie County’s Mike Ranzenhofer, working aggressively to make it happen. Genesee County’s place on the economic development map has grown exponentially today.”

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“Western New York has so many of the necessary resources to attract high tech manufacturing, such as a skilled workforce, excellent colleges and universities and strong infrastructure,” said County Legislator Mike Ranzenhofer. “This unique site is the ideal location to attract a major, worldwide company to Western New York and the investment we are announcing today will result in the creation of thousands of new jobs and an economic resurgence in our region.”

“New York has already had great success in attracting high-tech business in other parts of the State, and this project will allow us to duplicate that success right here in Western New York,” said Steve Hyde, President and CEO, Genesee County Economic Development Center. “We have the intellectual assets, the natural resources and the infrastructure, and I commend everyone involved in this project for their forward thinking and vision for this site. This project will be a key component in revitalizing the Western New York economy, providing new opportunities for the workforce, and attracting the best companies in the world to New York State.”

“Life sciences, high tech, advanced manufacturing and renewable energy are industry clusters that possess strong regional assets and offer great opportunities for attraction of business investment and creation of wealth generating employment opportunities”, said Thomas A. Kucharski, President of Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, western New York’s eight county private sector marketing, business & economic development organization. “Strategically situated between Buffalo and Rochester, the Western New York Science, Technology & Advanced Manufacturing Park is a tremendous example of a regional asset that when completed will be an important tool in our efforts to successfully attract these companies to our region. I commend the Genesee County Economic Development Center for having the vision to develop this valuable product and thank the New York State Senate for their leadership and support to keep this important economic development project moving forward.”

A feasibility study, funded by the State Senate, was completed and presented to the public last month and on October 13th, the Town of Alabama Board voted to support phase two of the STAMP project.

The funds provided by the Senate for phase two will be used for cost analysis, master plan development with municipalities, comprehensive engineering, environmental assessment and project management. After phase two of this project, the STAMP site will be an ideal location for high tech manufacturing in areas such as micro-electronics, photovoltaic flat panel display technologies or pharmaceutical manufacturing.

The Genesee County site has the unique elements required to attract desirable high-tech manufacturing, including a large, “greenfield” footprint with no major environmental concerns, as well as access to water and low-cost power, proximity to highways, airports and other transportation infrastructure and it is located close to the major population and research centers of Buffalo and Rochester.

The funding announced today comes from capital funds included in the 2008-09 state budget.

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