



NEW YORK
BUILDING
CONGRESS



June 10, 2010

An open letter demanding passage of a State budget to the Governor and members of the New York State Legislature from leaders in the building industry

On behalf of the thousands of men and women who are members of our organizations and who design and build the State’s infrastructure, we are calling on the New York State Legislature and the Governor to pass a final budget immediately. The building industry is one of many bedrock New York industries feeling the effects of Albany’s budgetary failures. Your action to pass a final budget is urgently needed.

A wide range of anticipated State-funded transportation and other projects that were to be procured have been put on hold indefinitely. During the months of April and May, the State threatened contractors, architects and consulting engineers with delays of payments for work already underway, causing twenty-six contractors to stop work. Moreover, building owners that house the State’s own workforce are not receiving rental payments – another drain on a vital industry sector already hit hard by the overall fiscal crisis. The cumulative effect is the loss of countless middle-class jobs, a further decline in economic activity, and the heightened costs associated with deferred maintenance of the State’s vital infrastructure.

New infrastructure projects cannot commence without a budget. As the vital summer construction season draws on without money to begin work on vital roads and bridges, the public will begin to see the physical effects of Albany’s failures. We urge Albany leaders to craft a consensus plan that will close the budget gap, achieve long-term structural balance and inject greater discipline into the State’s budget process.

Absent a budget agreement, New York State will soon run out of money to meet its obligations. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Anderson
President, New York Building Congress

Denise Richardson
Managing Director, General Contractors Association

Rick Bell, FAIA
Executive Director, AIA New York Chapter

Jay Simson
President, ACEC New York