

Keep NYC Free

www.keepnycfree.com

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Contact: Corey Bearak
(718) 343-6779/ cell: (516) 343-6207

Beware Economy-Killing/ Job-Killing Tax Schemes

With corporate executives ranking New York State 49th out of 50 as a place to do business, is now the time to be thinking of slapping on an [economy-killing congestion pricing scheme](#) or another [toll-tax](#) variant, which would further raise the [cost](#) of doing business in New York? Think not! New Yorkers need jobs not [job-killing](#) schemes.

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/the_big_crabapple_Hy6DysFnZQySDOfdVkHbGK

NY POST

The Big Crabapple

By ERIK KRISS, Bureau Chief
September 22, 2011

ALBANY -- It could be worse: We could be California.

New York again was ranked the second-worst state in the nation to do business by corporate executives and site-location consultants in a survey by the Manhattan-based marketing firm Development Counsellors International.

Of survey respondents who called New York's the least favorable state business climate in America, 61 percent blamed high taxes, 38 percent cited costs and 19 percent identified government regulations. DCI's online survey was conducted in May, after New York passed a budget that cut spending and held the line on taxes but before the Legislature adopted Gov. Cuomo's property-tax cap.

"These efforts will pay dividends down the line, and are a signal to businesses that they can locate here and thrive," said Michael Whyland, spokesman for Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan). Whyland noted the state also took "the first steps" toward rolling back mandates on local governments, made tuition increases at the State University of New York more predictable, and passed a power-plant siting law this year.

Still, the director of the state's small-business lobby said the survey "should serve as a wake-up call to both the governor and the leaders of the Legislature."

Mike Durant, director of the National Federation of Independent Business's New York state chapter, said the state needs more regulatory and mandate relief.

He cited as onerous the Metropolitan Transportation Authority payroll tax and the "wage theft prevention" act, which among other things requires employers to communicate annually about wages and benefits in each employee's primary language.

Cuomo's top priority remains attracting businesses and jobs, said spokesman Josh Vlasto, who added that the governor "restored credibility to state government" this year while creating 10 regional councils to promote the best economic development strategies in each part of the state.

Meanwhile, The Business Council of New York State reported yesterday that New York continued to fall behind most states in population and personal income growth over the last decade while topping the list of high-taxed states.

"There is a clear correlation between New York's high state and local taxes and our slow rate of economic development," said Heather Briccetti, acting president and CEO of the council. "Gov. Cuomo, with the support of the Legislature, has taken important steps toward remedying this trend through his commitment to develop local economies based on regional strengths."

New York used to be ranked worst in the DCI survey, which is conducted every three years, but gave up that distinction to California in 2002.

DCI vice president Dariel Curren said this year's "Winning Strategies" survey drew 322 responses from companies with at least \$25 million in gross revenues, the highest number since the survey's 1996 debut.