

January 18, 2011

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am a life long resident of Sullivan County, New York and have lived and worked here with the exception of a 5 year term of service in the Coast Guard when I graduated from High School. I own and operate 5 Roto-Rooter Franchises serving 13 Counties throughout New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey with the corporate office located in Narrowsburg NY. The recession over the last few years has had a profound effect on my companies as we have reduced the size of our work force from 44 to the current size of 22.

The cost of doing business in New York State is substantially higher than my costs for the same services which we provide in Pennsylvania. The Real Estate taxes in New York State are principally the cause, as myself and my companies currently pay \$124,000.00 per year for the numerous properties that I own in New York State. I also own properties that are equivalent in value in Pennsylvania and the taxes are ½ and in some cases slightly less, which have the same valuations for properties which I own in New York State. I believe that the teachers unions and other municipal unions have leveraged their influence so profoundly that they are now the privileged class in New York State. Each year we are asked to give a larger percentage of our earnings in both Real Estate, payroll and sales tax to the state to feed these unions which, in my opinion, are absolutely out of control and are ruining the future of this state by chasing businesses such as mine out of state.

Just when it appears that there is hope on the horizon in the future of natural gas extraction under the land that we are taxed so heavily upon, the State places a moratorium on hydro fracking. I completely understand the value of a clean and sustainable environment as I was born and raised on a farm prior to my father and mother starting the Roto-Rooter Plumbing businesses. Let's face the facts that it is generally the farmers who own the larger tracks of land who would benefit most from gas drilling and these families have been working hard 7 days a week, 14 plus hours a day, all of their lives, with little or no return on their labor, whom in general, are second or third generation farmers and love their heritage. Why is it that individuals whom generally live on small

partials of land, condos, or rent apartments now assume that they are better stewards of the land than the larger land owners and farmers who earn their living from the land? I believe the people in the areas where hydro-fracking will take place as a majority support hydro-fracking in a safe and viable manor. I would ask that you direct the NYSDEC to expedite the promulgation of new regulations for the hydro-fracking industry and do so in such a manor that they are not overly burdensome so that the industry cannot conform so by saying yes the state is really saying no to hydro-fracking.

It is most unfortunate in this country that a very loud minority can rule by their volume alone irregardless of the consequences to the majority of the public. If our country continues the transferring of wealth to our enemies in the Middle East our National Security and the sustainability of our country and culture is in grave danger. It is incumbent upon our government at all levels to help reduce our appetite for energy and promote better conservation practices by our society. Our Government needs to incentize our industries to produce more efficient automobiles, appliances and homes, establishing energy reduction and emission reduction goals that are attainable so that at some point, our Nation will not need foreign energy in any form to power our Country.

I believe if you research the history of hydro-fracking throughout the southwest and now in the northeast, very few instances of ground water or other contamination has occurred and in the cases where it has, the Industry has been made to step up and be responsible for the cleanup and restoration of any environmental incidences. We need the state to do its job now, not later, and provide the oversight that is required for the safe extraction of natural gas from the states soil sustaining our economy, providing jobs and training for our families. We need to move quickly to address the many woes that are afflicting New York State today and tomorrow.

Additionally, I also want to support you and ask that you meet the Education Lobby and other municipal unions lobbies head on and say no to their continued greedy, self serving needs and stand up for the rights of the hard working New Yorkers of which myself, my family and my employees represent. Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Ned Lang

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cc: Senator John J. Bonacic, Assemblywoman Eileen Gunther,
Senator Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Assemblyman Sheldon Silver,
Office of Representatives Maurice Hinchey, Senator Patricia Blevins/ DRBC,
Senator Gary Simpson, DRBC, Senator Liane Sorrenson, DRBC