

SHARING IN THE SOLUTION

An Open Letter from Upper-Income New Yorkers to the Governor and the New York State Legislature, March 24, 2011

Dear Governor Cuomo and Legislative Leaders,

We are upper-income New Yorkers who treasure the quality of life in our state. We know New York faces a daunting deficit. We know that both budget cuts and revenues are needed to deal with a deficit of this magnitude.

We believe the deep cuts proposed to education, health care and other vital human services will not only hurt New York but are a counterproductive response to the current budget crisis. Instead, **we call for a *balanced* solution that includes maintaining the income tax surcharges enacted in 2009 on upper-income New Yorkers like ourselves**, which currently raises nearly \$5 billion per year.

In the spirit of shared sacrifice, **we believe that we should continue to pay the modest increase in personal income tax for individuals earning over \$200,000 and families earning over \$300,000 (with an additional bracket starting at \$500,000 for both families and individuals).**

We and our wealthy peers have benefited from substantial cuts in the top New York State tax rates over the past 30 years, and are already realizing the benefits of the extension of the Bush tax cuts. Now is not the time for another tax break for us.

As New Yorkers who are well off at a time of economic hardship for so many, we can afford to pay our current taxes; our state needs this revenue for schools, health care and essential services. We can and should avoid severe cuts to our great state's services and infrastructure. Our state's long-term economic prosperity depends on strong investments in our people and our communities.

Everyone should do their share to help New York through this budget crisis. **We urge you to continue the "Millionaires Tax" and ensure that we keep doing our part to support our state.**

Signed: Stephen R. Abrams & Virginia Abrams, New York • David Alexander, Chappaqua • Loren Blackford, New York • Elyse Arnow Brill & Joshua Arnow, Pound Ridge • Richard Barabino, New York • Chuck Bell, Maryknoll • Richard Berkenfeld, Bayside • Jeff Bernstein, Jericho • Jessica Brackman, New York • Irwin Brandon, New York • Josephine Brill, Peekskill • Susan Chalfin, New York • Sheila Chervin, Westchester • Polly Cleveland & Thomas Haines, New York • Ruth Cowan, New York • Bruce Detwiler & Sandra Winters, New York • Virginia Elvin, New York • Helen Engelhardt, Brooklyn • Edith Everett, New York • Rosemary Faulkner, New York • Diane Feeney, New York • Sasha Feldstein, Brooklyn • George & Jessica Foltin, New York • Robert H. Frank, Ithaca • Elspeth Gilmore, New York • Ronald M. & Urania Glassman, New York • Fatima Goldman, Brooklyn • Peter Gollon, Huntington • Sally Gottesman, New York • Daniel Greenberg, Brooklyn • Michael Grossman, Lake Success • Catherine Gund, New York • Agnes Gund, New York • Alice Henkin, Brooklyn • Leo Hindrey, Jr. New York • Polly Howells & Eric Werthman, Brooklyn • Jocelyn Jacobson, New York • Laura Kane, New York • Craig Kaplan & Anne Hess, New York • Emily Korzenik, Scarsdale • Deborah Krasnow, White Plains • Stuart & Bette Kraut, Schenectady • Robert D. & Carol Herselle Krinsky, New York • Jennifer Krueger, New York • Tom Lapham, Greenwich • Joan & Byron Lapham, Greenwich • Christine Leas, New York • Michael A. & Ann Ross Loeb, New York • Edwin Lopez, Ithaca • Stephanie T. Low, New York • James & Jacqueline Mann, Mt. Kisco • Michael Mazzariello, Newburgh • Richard Milin, New York • Cynthia Nixon, New York • James O'Toole, Red Hook • Mariana Olenko, New York • Chet & Karen Opalka, Averill Park • Richard L. Ottinger, Mamaroneck • Richard Perl, New York • Karen Pittelman, New York • Mark E. Reed, New York • Martin Rothenberg & Yvonne Tasker-Rothenberg, Jamesville • Marc Ruffalo, New York • Bill Samuels, New York • Robert Savage & Nanette Lepore, New York • Donald Shaffer, New York • Lindsay Shea, Germantown • Michael Shonborn, Larchmont • Daniel A. Simon, New York • James L. Simon, New York • Sylvia Stein, New York • Annette Stover & Richard Feiner, New York • Sarah Stranahan, New York • Ronald Tabak, New York • Merry Tucker, New York • Nicholas Turner, New York • Katrina vanden Heuvel, New York • Susan Van Dolsen, Rye • Amy Wagner, New York • Judith D. & Sylvan Wallach, NYC • Oren Warshavsky, New York • Marc Weiss & Nancy Meyer, New York • Laurie Wilson, New York

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