



New York State Senator

Jim Wright

48th Senate District



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STATEMENT FROM SENATOR WRIGHT ON GOVERNOR PATAKI'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Senator encouraged by initiatives that will impact CNY and NNY

Thursday, January 6, 2005

"The Governor focused on three major themes in his State of the State address: the state budget, necessary reforms and jobs. I am pleased that the Governor has offered his support to enact reforms relative to creating a more open and accountable government. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues and the Governor to make this a reality. The Governor also spoke to the importance of creating and maintaining jobs in New York. Governor Pataki outlined ambitious initiatives that will be of particular interest to upstate New York," said Senator Jim Wright (R,C,I-Watertown), following Governor George Pataki's State of the State Address.

"Governor Pataki addressed many of the challenges that New York faces. In doing so, he focused upon issues that are of great importance to Central and Northern New York. I was extremely pleased by the Governor's focus on emerging alternative energy technology in Central and Northern New York. I was also happy to hear the Governor's commitment to New York's military bases, particularly Fort Drum and the development of Agribusiness Opportunity Zones.

"Each of these issues have great economic importance to the region through investment, job retention and creation.

"The future development of biofuels at the former Miller Plant in Volney and the development of new biodiesel technology through Clarkson University will benefit the region economically by creating new jobs and expanding markets for local farmers. As new research and technology leads to the production of renewable energy resources, our region will lead the way in the development and implementation of this new science. As the Chairman of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee, I am pleased to have worked with each of these companies."

Northeast Biofuels has proposed to build a corn-to-ethanol plant at the former Miller Brewery that will have the capacity to produce 100 million gallons per year of ethanol and be the third largest plant in the nation. The new plant is expected to create 300 new jobs.

NextGen Chemical Processes, Inc., and their affiliate company NextGen Fuels, both located in Potsdam, is working with Clarkson University to develop technology to produce biodiesel, bioheating fuels and fuel additives. It is also developing technology to convert waste grease from used cooking oils into a low cost heating fuel.

"Fort Drum has the single largest economic impact on our area -- providing more than 2,000 civilian jobs and pumping millions of dollars into the regional economy. The State of New York has demonstrated a strong commitment to Fort Drum in a effort to ensure that it remains one of the most advanced military installations when

it comes to infrastructure. I will continue to work with Governor Pataki to address the needs of the installation and the needs of Fort Drum soldiers.

"The Governor also recognized the economic impact that agricultural based businesses have on rural New York's economy. That is why I am encouraged by his proposal to establish new tax credits through Agribusiness Opportunity Zones. This proposal will help both agricultural businesses and regional farmers."

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