



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

December 28, 2001

Dear Business Owner:

The September 11 attack on the World Trade Center was not just an attack on New York and New Yorkers, but an attack on all of America and on every American. This was not only an attack on our freedoms and the American way of life, but an evil attempt to cripple the American economy by striking our nation's financial capital – New York City. During these last few difficult months, New Yorkers and millions of compassionate and caring Americans have come forward to offer unprecedented support and assistance to those most directly affected by these tragedies. Through their efforts the spirit of New York and the spirit of America have been renewed.

Now we must make restoring the strength of the New York economy one of our top priorities, and to do that, we must rebuild our nation's financial capital. As we have seen throughout the entire history of our nation, when New York and its economy succeed, America and the American economy succeed.

Since September 11, I have been working with President Bush and our Congressional leaders to send a clear and consistent message to Washington that federal assistance is critical to helping New York City and New York State recover, rebuild and revitalize.

As part of the federal effort to assist in New York's economic recovery, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has provided \$700 million to New York State for business recovery. We have developed a proposed spending plan for these funds, targeted to businesses directly affected by the disaster. Because you number among those who have felt the impact of this devastating event, I look to you to provide your input into how these funds will be directed to assist you and your neighbors. We value your input and look forward to receiving any comments you might have.

A summary of our proposed plan is enclosed for your review. You may also view the complete plan on the Internet at www.nylovessmallbiz.com or call 1-800-STATE-NY for information on where you can obtain a copy of the plan. We are requesting that your comments be received no later than January 11, 2002. Please e-mail your comments to wtcspendingplan@empire.state.ny.us, call us at 1-800-STATE-NY, or send them to the following address:

Empire State Development
WTC Spending Plan
P.O. Box 4438, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10017

Since September 11, New Yorkers have shown America that we are a resilient people with a strong, unstoppable spirit, ready to meet and overcome any challenge. New York remains the most vibrant, thriving city in the world, but we must act decisively and boldly to ensure that the City remains the capital of the world for generations to come. Thank you for all you have done to keep your business operating in the face of one of the worst disasters imaginable. Together, with your help and determination, we will prevail.

Sincerely,

George E. Pataki



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