



July 30, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**Re: New York State Travel Advisory Workforce Implications**

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the members of the Chemung County and Corning Area Chambers of Commerce, we applaud your leadership in successfully slowing the transmission of COVID-19 to a rate that is unprecedented within the country. Although New York was once the epicenter of this health emergency in the United States, we now have one of the lowest rates in the nation and hope to continue on that positive trajectory under your guidance.

An important component in mitigating the spread has been the travel advisory requiring all travelers coming from states with significant rates of transmission of COVID-19 to quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of their last contact within such designated state(s). Although we understand the importance of a travel advisory to prevent the spread of this pandemic, we urge you to consider specific guidelines and exemptions for residents of Pennsylvania who work in New York's Southern Tier Region as well as consideration of specific county test results. As the guidance currently stands, should future test rates for the entire state of Pennsylvania require quarantine, this would be catastrophic to both our workforce and employers.

A significant portion of the Southern Tier workforce resides in Pennsylvania. According to the 2011-2015 5 Year American Community Survey Commuting Flows report, more than 2,700 residents of Pennsylvania are employed by Chemung County businesses and nearly 9,500 are employed within the region. Furthermore, more than 6,300 Southern Tier residents work in Pennsylvania. Our local economy and economic success is tied to our ability to employ across borders. If Pennsylvania were to reach a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a seven-day rolling average or a testing positivity rate of higher than a 10% over a seven-day rolling average and be added to the travel advisory, our local industry would fail. Proactively, we are asking that guidelines with further clarification on this issue be put into place to allow business the opportunity to plan for workforce protocols in the worst-case scenario. As employers in the Southern Tier struggle to sustain and even revitalize our economy during this crisis, losing our skilled workforce due to a mandated quarantine would be detrimental beyond repair.

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We must do everything possible to protect the health of our residents, but we must also support the health of our local economy. Manufacturing, Construction, Small Business, Healthcare, Education, and more would be dramatically impacted by the inability of Pennsylvanians to report for work in the Southern Tier. Please don't reverse all the progress we have made as a region under your leadership through the Regional Economic Development Council. We understand that we must enforce the travel advisory as a whole, but surely there must be a way to allow the workforce just across the border to work safely and effectively here in New York.

Sincerely,



Kamala Keeley  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Chemung County Chamber of Commerce

Able2 Enhancing Potential Inc.	Arnot Health
Arnot Realty Corporation	BilDan Precision Manufacturing
CAF USA	Cameron Manufacturing & Design
Carbide USA	Career Development Council Inc.
Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce	Chemung Canal Trust Company
Chemung County Chamber of Commerce	Chemung County Child Care Council
Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning & the Finger Lakes, Inc.	Corning Area Chamber of Commerce
Databranch Inc.	Corning Incorporated
Elmira College	Elm Chevrolet, Inc.
Elmira Savings Bank	Elmira Eastowne Mall, LLC
Finger Lakes Audiology, PLLC	Fagan Engineers & Land Surveyors, PC
Holiday Inn Elmira- Horseheads	FM Howell & Company
Jeanie's Variety Store	I.D. Booth
Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co., LLP	John Milles Electric, Inc.
Pathways, Inc.	Motor Components, LLC
Southern Tier Economic Growth	pladis Global
Swan Morss Insurance	Southerntier Custom Fabricators
The Greater Southern Tier BOCES	Sweeney Enterprises LLC
The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes	The Hilliard Corporation
Warehouse Carpet & Flooring Outlets, Inc.	Vulcraft of New York, Inc.
Williams Construction and Energy Savers	Watkins Glen International
	XGen Pharmaceuticals DJB