



STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
GOVERNOR

May 7, 2012

Laura Ryan  
120 Via Foresta Lane  
Williamsville, NY 14221

Dear Ms. Ryan:

Thank you for your commitment to the important work of the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council. Your participation and enormous time commitment were critical to making this initiative a success. The completion of the strategic plans marks a milestone in our ongoing effort to turn New York's economy around, and I am grateful to have you as a partner in this exciting endeavor.

In a matter of months, we moved from a top-down development model to a community-based approach that emphasizes each region's unique assets, harnesses local expertise, and empowers communities to stimulate regional economic development and create jobs statewide. The support and guidance that you provided to the Council were invaluable to the success of this transformative process. Your dedication to the initiative was truly impressive and will continue to drive New York forward.

We have made tremendous progress, but we have much more yet to do. I want to thank you once again for helping to forge a better future for Western New York. Together, we have shown that government truly can work for the people, and I am proud to say that New York is Open for Business. I look forward to continuing our work together to make New York the Empire State once again.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "A. Cuomo", written over a horizontal line.

ANDREW M. CUOMO