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### **CERETTO BLASTS DELMONTE FOR INACTION ON POWER FOR JOBS**

With yesterday's announcement by New York Power Authority (NYPA) President & CEO Richard M. Kessel that NYPA is suspending the Power for Jobs and Energy Cost Savings Benefit programs, New York State Assembly candidate John Ceretto (R - Lewiston) criticized long-term incumbent and Albany fixture Francine DelMonte for her refusal to carry permanent, substantive Power for Jobs legislation in the Assembly.

Ceretto's announcement comes on the heels of a bipartisan agreement between Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Conference Leader John Sampson, Senate Energy Chair George Maziarz and Senate Energy Vice-Chair Darrel Aubertine to create a permanent Power for Jobs program that will be called *Energize New York*.

"I find it simply astounding that Francine DelMonte has not come out in support of this agreement and expressed a willingness to sponsor corresponding legislation that will bring long-term stability to businesses and their employees in Niagara County who benefit from these programs," said Ceretto. "She claims to be interested in job creation and preservation, but she has allowed the current PFJ program to lapse, and now with a viable, bipartisan agreement on the table, she is nowhere to be found."

The agreement includes:

- Redeployment of the 455 megawatts of Rural and Domestic Power to create a new and permanent 910 megawatt blended rate economic development program that will offer reduced rate power in seven year contracts to businesses and institutions that meet selection criteria. Of which:
  - At least 300 megawatts would be limited to the service territories that served the Rural and Domestic customers (NYSEG, RG&E, and National Grid);
  - At least 200 megawatts would be set aside for business attraction and expansion; and
  - Up to 100 megawatts would be set aside for not-for-profits and small businesses.
- Selection criteria will include among other factors: the applicant's payroll; number of jobs that would be created or retained; risk of the applicant leaving the State; significance of electricity costs to the applicant; and energy efficiency commitments.
- Permanent electricity bill mitigation for Rural and Domestic customers that would be phased down from \$100 million in the first year of the program to \$30 million per year on a permanent basis. Farmers that received Rural and Domestic benefits would be eligible for \$5 million per year carve out to support electricity discounts.
- The new program would begin accepting applications on January 31, 2011.

"This program is vital to job retention in our community," said Ceretto. "DelMonte sits in Albany and does nothing. The budget is months late, and now businesses across the state that depend on Power for Jobs to keep their doors open and people employed will lose because of Albany's inaction. Taxpayers deserve better."

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