



For Release: **IMMEDIATELY**, July 22, 2010
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**OBSTRUCTIONIST BRIDGE COMMISSIONER WORKING FOR
DELMONTE'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN**
Ceretto says petition challenge will prove fruitless

New York State Assembly candidate John Ceretto today is questioning the challenge of his Independence Party petitions by long-time Francine DelMonte political ally Thomas G. Pryce. Ceretto, who filed 218 signatures on the Independence Line, only needed 130.

“Getting one of her political lackeys to challenge my Independence Party petitions when it’s clear that I have more than enough signatures to qualify for the ballot is another underhanded tactic employed by Francine DelMonte to deny the people of the 138th Assembly District their right to freely elect their representative,” said Ceretto.

Pryce is a member of the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission. Ceretto, as a representative of the Niagara County Legislature, has filed a lawsuit against the Bridge Commission seeking the disclosure of information relating to the departure of former Executive Director Thomas Garlock. The lawsuit is currently before U. S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara.

“Tom Pryce was appointed to the Bridge Commission in 2007 based on the recommendation of Francine DelMonte,” said Ceretto. “Now, quite conveniently, he issues a challenge of my petitions in the midst of my campaign to unseat her. Maybe instead of taking orders from his political matriarch, Pryce should spend some time reviewing the failed policies of the organization he supposedly represents.”

Ceretto sees the matter as another indication of DelMonte’s repeated attempts to cover up the happenings at the Bridge Commission.

“Ms. DelMonte talks about being an advocate for transparency in government, but at no point has she demanded the Commission turn over the documents we are seeking,” said Ceretto.

“The Bridge Commission is the only agency with gubernatorial appointments that meet in secrecy, do not disclose how their funds are spent and do not engage in any level of governmental transparency. But their board members have time to engage in frivolous political activities. That’s quite a system Francine DelMonte has created to insulate herself.”

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