

January 16, 2014

Governor Andrew Cuomo
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As organizations who have fought to fix New York's broken campaign finance system, we write to encourage you to advance the Moreland Commission to Investigate Public Corruption's public financing and independent elections oversight and enforcement recommendations in your 2014 Executive Budget.

New Yorkers have waited long enough for action on curbing corruption and reducing the undue influence and role of campaign money in state government. In particular, two specific reforms with fiscal impacts, a public financing of elections system and an independent enforcement unit, need funding starting this year. The campaign finance reforms recommended to you in December need to move quickly to public hearings and the floor of the legislature.

Earlier this week, Speaker Silver committed once again to leading on this issue of campaign finance reform this session. We are encouraged by the Speaker's commitment and the willingness of the State Assembly to advocate for critical reforms. The Senate Democratic Conference and Independent Democratic Conference have also shown strong public support, each introducing bills similar to your own program bills last legislative session.

In the State of the State address, you correctly recognized the imperative to fight for a package of reforms which includes public financing of elections, the reform that is so critical to ending Albany's "show me the money" culture. The state budget process allows the best opportunity for making campaign finance reform a reality in 2014.

We will continue to work to move the entire state legislature toward supporting these reforms and your strong leadership in the budget process will create the legislative opportunity as well as provide the necessary momentum to help restore New Yorkers' trust in state government.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lawton
President and CEO
Americans for Campaign Reform

Lawrence Norden
Deputy Director, Democracy Program
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of
Law

Sam Massol
Executive Director
BridgeRoots

Karen Scharff
Executive Director
Citizen Action of New York

Erin Heaney
Director
Clean Air Coalition of Western NY

Susan Lerner
Executive Director
Common Cause/NY

Bob Master
Political Director
CWA District 1

Joan D. Mandle, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Democracy Matters

Heather McGhee
VP of Policy and Outreach
Demos

Robb Smith
Executive Director
Interfaith Impact of NYS

Sara Niccoli
Executive Director
Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS

Lisa Tyson
Director
Long Island Progressive Coalition

Cynthia D. DiBartolo
Chairperson
Greater New York Chamber of Commerce

Deb Axt
Co-Director
Make the Road NY

Jaron Benjamin
Executive Director
Met Council on Housing

Susan Weber
Regional Organizer
MoveOn.org

Jonathan Westin
Executive Director
New York Communities for Change

New York Leadership for Accountable
Government (NY LEAD)

Brooke Newell
Director of Social Witness
NY State Council of Churches

Bill Mahoney
Research Coordinator
NYPIRG

Nick Nyhart
President & CEO
Public Campaign

David Donnelly
Executive Director
Public Campaign Action Fund

Stuart Appelbaum
President
RWDSU

Kevin Finnegan
Political Director
1199SEIU

Roger Downs
Conservation Director
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

Michael Kink
Executive Director
Strong Economy for All

Scott Adams
Director
UAW Region 9

Julie Kushner
Director
UAW Region 9A

Westchester for Change

Dan Cantor
Executive Director
Working Families Party