

## From the Desk of Senator Tom Libous

As the budget process drags on, the Governor and New York City leadership have already violated New York State law by failing to set up public budget negotiations or passing an on-time state budget.

They haven't followed the law we passed and imposed upon ourselves to get a timely budget done for the people of this state. That's wrong and that's why they talk about dysfunction in Albany.

[Click here to view video of my comments on the Budget from the floor of the Senate Chamber.](#)

Last year, the New York State Budget increased spending by \$10.2 billion. One year later, the State can't pay its bills. I voted against that spending.

Governor Paterson is also suspending hundreds of current and new construction projects in New York because of the state's fiscal crisis.

New York State needs to be held to the same standards as its hardworking taxpayers. No matter who you are or where you work, you can't sign a contract and then go back on your word.

That's why my Republican colleagues and I led the effort to reverse Governor Paterson's latest bad decision by including construction funding in the budget extender bill.

The Senate Democrats voted unanimously to block our amendment.

The amendment included no new funding, but would have kept existing construction projects funded until April 18.

Without this critical funding, contractors who have already begun work could be forced to choose between three options: continuing work without knowing when they'll be paid by the state, laying off workers to cope with the loss of revenue, or abandoning work until the state is ready to pay them.

Each of these options puts jobs in danger and puts motorists on our highways in jeopardy.

According to the state labor department, New York lost over 33,400 construction jobs last year. We can't afford to lose more.