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New York State Budget Process

For those of you who may not know me yet, I'm the Director of Government Relations and Communications at MACNY. I've been on the job for two months now - and enjoying every moment.

Over the past several weeks, I've had the great opportunity to tour some of the impressive manufacturing companies that call Central New York home. I've seen first-hand how their essential products are skillfully made, and I've met many of the talented and dedicated people who make it all possible. I've also traveled to Albany to monitor some of the pressing state issues that could have an impact on your own business and our local economy.

I was particularly pleased to learn that Governor Cuomo pledged his continued support of workforce development in his Executive Budget and included a \$175 million commitment for workforce training programs, which could help expand initiatives like the Apprenticeship Program. MACNY truly understands how important apprenticeship programs are for continuing to build a skilled workforce in Central New York, and throughout the state, while growing a strong economy through advanced manufacturing.

As I'm sure you're aware, the Governor held his State of the State and budget presentation this past January. Joint Legislative Hearings then took place in February to give members of the public the opportunity to testify on major state issues, including economic development and workforce development. Now it's the month of March, and a State Budget deadline of April 1st is quickly approaching. With this in mind, I thought I would provide you with a brief summary of the overall budget process.

First, the Governor submits his Executive Budget to the State Legislature. Then the Senate and Assembly hold joint hearings on the budget, and subsequently work toward passing their own one-house budgets by considering the public's testimony and the Executive Budget. Next, Senate/Assembly Joint Conference Committee Hearings take place so that legislators can debate different spending and revenue priorities and negotiate any possible amendments to the Executive Budget. Under budget reform legislation passed in 2007, the State Legislature is required to use a conference committee process between both houses to reach an agreement. Ultimately, a final 2019-20 State Budget will be presented, debated, and passed.

As this budget process unfolds, and the 2019 Legislative Session progresses, we at MACNY will continue to keep you up to date on our efforts to support and advocate for the hardworking men and women who keep our manufacturing industry running strong each day. I also encourage you to get involved with the legislative process to let your voice be heard. Please consider joining us for Manufacturing Lobby Day 2019 at the NYS Capitol on March 6th. It's not too late to sign up! Of course, you can contact me anytime to discuss other opportunities you may have in mind to get more involved in advocacy efforts on the local, state, or federal level. To register for Lobby Day, visit bit.ly/mfglobbyday2019. I can be reached directly at tiffanylatinog@macny.org.