



Tiffany Latino-Gerlock

Director of Government Relations & Communications

Manufacturers Make Their Voice Heard in New York's Capital

Each year, MACNY and the Manufacturers Alliance of New York State head to Albany to collectively advocate for certain legislation, request funding, or to voice concern about certain proposals. On March 3rd, dozens of MACNY members, Alliance partners, and members of The Business Council participated in our Manufacturing Advocacy Day. We were concentrated into four main groups: Economic Development; Workforce; Human Resources; and Energy, and we spent the day meeting with many of our State Senators and Assembly members and/or their legislative staff.

Matt Roberts, President and Cofounder of Sherrill Manufacturing/Liberty Tabletop, was part of the economic development team. Roberts said, "There are so many proposed changes in New York that affect manufacturers, many of which are unknown to the average citizen. We need to be very diligent to let our elected officials know the effects of legislation. Spending time in Albany and meeting our representatives gives a personal touch and lets them know how passionate we are about keeping and growing manufacturing throughout New York."

John Murphy, President and CEO of Murphy & Nolan, Inc. added, "I think the best feedback that I had from the day is that our presence really does make a difference. It's easy to throw up your hands and say that our voice is drowned out by the massive protests on the other side, but it was clear from our visits that the legislators and staff really do listen to our concerns, especially when MACNY and others help us to really focus on a key issue that we'd like to see enacted."

A legislative priority we were in Albany to support is S.4671A Kaplan / A.636B Stirpe, which would extend the zero percent income tax rate to small and medium sized manufacturers in the State of New York. A second major issue we were there to push for is continued state funding for the Manufacturers Intermediary Apprenticeship Program, or MIAP.

Aaron Currado with Plug Power of the Albany area attended our advocacy day for the first time this year. "Not only was it a great experience," said Currado, "it was also great to meet other business folks that are encountering the same challenges and understand how we collectively need to work together toward the same common ground on the Workforce Development front."

In addition to the legislative meetings, the event also included guest speakers. We were honored to have Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon address our group, both of whom shared their thoughts on workforce development in New York. We were also pleased to have *Capital Tonight* anchor Susan Arbetter speak, sharing her personal connection to manufacturing and her take on statewide political issues.

This year's event was made possible with the help of our sponsors. We would like to thank Bank of America Albany, The Council of Industry, CEN Manufacturing, BNMA, RTMA, The Business Council of New York State, and The Bonadio Group.

We also thank all who participated in our 2020 Manufacturing Advocacy Day. If you were unable to attend but would like us to help you with any pending legislation, please contact me at tiffanylatinog@macny.org. I am here to answer any of your questions or to help advocate on your behalf.

