

Lay A New Foundation For Growth



By Arthur (Jerry) Kremer

In his Inaugural Address President Barack Obama said that, "the state of the economy calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act — not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth." The President followed this by recognizing our nation's aging physical and energy infrastructure as critical for recovery and future prosperity.

The New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance thanks the President for prioritizing these vital needs. Since our founding over five years ago our members, which include a cross-section of business and organized labor, have advocated such measures which will create jobs and grow our economy.

This historic speech recognized what we all know, that our nation and New York are facing some very difficult times. The President wisely identifies these critical issues as the key to getting our economy moving in the right direction.

For far too long our state turned a blind eye to its own aging infrastructure, much of which is a vestige of the era of FDR and Governor Nelson Rockefeller. To prime the pump and put our people back to work requires the political courage to do what is right.

New York's economy is said to be a three legged stool. One leg, the financial community, is facing historic challenges while predictions say in 2009 another leg, our construction economy, will have 40-50 percent unemployment.

For over six years we have lacked a state power plant siting law and listened to illogical calls by some to close Indian Point, the backbone of the downstate region's electricity supply.

To those who have opposed investment in new power plants and supported shutting down vital sources of clean, affordable baseload power supply, I again refer to the eloquent words of our new President, "We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together."

Mr. President, the men and women of New York's business and labor community and our economy are counting on it.

Arthur (Jerry) Kremer is Chairman of the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance and a co-author the Article X Power Plant Siting Law. He served in the State Legislature for 23 years, 12 as Assembly Ways and Means Chair.

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The New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) is a diverse group of business, labor, environmental, and community leaders working together for clean, low-cost and reliable electricity solutions that foster prosperity and jobs for the Empire State.

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