

October 4, 2011

Governor Andrew Cuomo
c/o Katie Campos, Asst. Secretary for Education
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Andrew Cuomo:

AMERICA'S EDGE NEW YORK is writing to strongly support New York's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge application.

AMERICA'S EDGE NEW YORK is a nonprofit organization made up of business leaders from across the state, who are committed to working to strengthen America's businesses and our state's economy through proven investments in New York's youngest children. We support high-quality early learning programs because we know, and research shows, such programs have a real impact on our businesses and our economy both today and tomorrow. These programs help young children develop the critical skills to be successful throughout their lives, ensuring a future workforce with the 21st century skills businesses need.

Our report, "Strengthening New York Businesses through Investments in Early Care and Education" documents that investments in early learning provide a significant, immediate economic boost for local businesses and help build stronger communities over the long term.

In the short term, early learning funding will spur immediate economic development, also early learning spending *stays* in New York. And then there are the long-term economic benefits: investments in quality early care and education have a return on investment that is unmatched by almost any other public investment – as much as \$16 for every \$1 invested.

There are over 1.2 million children under age 5 in New York State, over 870,000 children under age 6 and yet New York State currently has no uniform standards across early care and education program environments to ensure that all programs across the state are evaluated in the same way. This is just one of the reasons why we've shown support for high-quality early education programs. We see the

implementation of QUALITYstarsNY, the tiered quality rating and improvement system that is included in the application a clear step in the right direction.

Every child who is denied access to high-quality early learning represents a lost opportunity to strengthen our businesses, contribute to our state's economic security, and maintain our competitive edge in a global marketplace.

Governor Cuomo, we are encouraged by the work you have shown to help businesses and our economy get back and stay on track, few investments make as much sense for New York businesses balance sheets as do those investments in high-quality early care and education.

Sincerely,



David Bauer
President
Capital Bauer
Sandy Cohn

Sandy Cohn
V.P., US Operation
GSS Infotech, Inc.



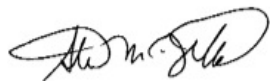
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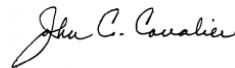
David Gibson
President/CEO
XOS



Reid Hislop
Vice President
Plug Power



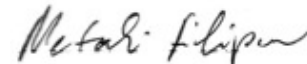
Steven Jeffes
President
EdgeUp Marketing



John Cavalier
CEO (Retired)
MapInfo, Inc.



Michael DeLuise
President
Melville Chamber of Commerce



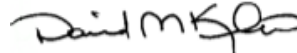
Metodi Filipov
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