



Enforce the Law - Collect the Tax Coalition

For Immediate Release:

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COALITION PRAISES ENFORCE THE LAW COLLECT THE TAX LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS

*Senators Klein, Kruger, Craig Johnson, Valesky, Golden, Griffo and Assembly Republican
Leader Kolb, Assemblymen Hoyt, Magee, Benjamin and Townsend
Recognized for their Efforts*

Albany, New York – October 14, 2010 The “Enforce the Law, Collect the Tax” Coalition today recognized eleven legislative champions for their efforts to ensure the state commences collection of hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues from the sale of cigarettes on Native American reservations to non-tribal purchasers.

Today, the State is poised to commence collection of these taxes – and this progress would not have been possible without the leadership of Senators Klein, Kruger, Craig Johnson, Valesky, Golden and Griffo as well as Leader Kolb, Assemblyman Hoyt, Benjamin, Magee and Townsend. Thanks to the efforts of these legislative tax champions in concert with Governor Paterson’s administration, after years of false starts, today the State is finally poised to begin collection.

The Coalition also recognizes the leadership of both major candidates for Governor – Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and Carl Paladino – for clearly stating their commitment to ensuring these taxes are finally collected. As reported by the Buffalo News on October 11, Attorney General Cuomo said, "I look forward to enforcing the law. I think it's been a long time coming." That article also reports that Mr. Paladino has similarly stated his commitment to collecting excise taxes on these sales with his campaign spokesman saying, "Carl will uphold the law."

Over the years, New York has forfeited billions of dollars in uncollected taxes from cigarette sales to non-tribal members on Native American reservations. With the enactment of legislation this June, the State has moved forward with its plan to start collecting these taxes. According to projections by the Enforce the Law Collect the Tax Coalition’s tax loss calculator, over \$664 million in revenues have already gone uncollected thus far in 2010. The coalition’s tax loss calculator is based on a report by the New York Association of Convenience Stores, <http://www.nyacs.taxstudy>, which indicates that New York State loses \$1,900 every minute that the law is not enforced and the tax is not collected.

The New York State courts recently rejected challenges to this plan to collect the tax. The federal courts are currently reviewing several lawsuits that challenge this system, and the Coalition is confident that this new collection system will be allowed to move forward.

Individuals and organizations that want to join the coalition and support efforts to Enforce the Law and Collect the tax should visit: www.collectthetaxny.com.