

For release: August 6, 2009

STATEMENT BY KENDRA ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK STATE MOTOR TRUCK ASSOCIATION, REGARDING THE PATERSON ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO RESTRICT TRUCK TRAFFIC ON UPSTATE HIGHWAYS

“The Governor’s office today issued a set of regulations that prevents commercial trucks from using seven major highways in Central New York and the Finger Lakes region.

In taking this action, the administration ignored the pleas of virtually every major business, agricultural and retail group in New York. Led by the Motor Truck Association, these groups provided detailed information to the Governor’s office showing that the action would drive up transportation costs and eliminate thousands of jobs in the upstate region.

The administration did not dispute this information. In fact, the administration acknowledged the potential job loss, but insisted that it would be limited to just one sector – the trucking industry. The administration completely ignored the fact that countless other industries depend on trucking.

These roads have always been used by commercial vehicles and are essential to the industries that form the backbone of the regional economy, especially agriculture and forest products, and the entire retail sector.

The people who benefit from this policy are wealthy people who own second homes in the Finger Lakes and who think truck traffic is an annoyance. These are the people the administration appears to care most about, not working families.

This is a terrible decision by the Governor’s office. For the sake of a favored few, the administration is willing to drive up costs for everyone, eliminate jobs, and push many beleaguered businesses over the brink.

When people wonder why the upstate economy is so bad, they need only to look at this type of government policy.”