



April 20, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**RE: Unemployment Insurance (UI)**

Dear Governor Hochul:

On behalf of the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, a business membership organization consisting of nearly 800 members, we would like to voice our disbelief with the state's failure to provide unemployment insurance relief in this year's budget.

While we appreciate the legislature and Executive Office for your efforts in supporting our businesses through various tax cuts and COVID relief aid, we are devastated that despite our calls to action, the legislature did not make the unemployment insurance crisis a priority but instead chose to fund football stadiums. With 32 other states across our nation using their unspent federal dollars to decrease this tax burden on their employers, it's unfathomable that we are not doing the same. During a time when businesses are trying to recover from nearly two years of economic decline, 2 million lost jobs, and rising inflation, a tax hike like this will be absolutely crushing to small businesses and deter new start-ups from coming to New York. With a nearly \$220 billion budget, we find it hard to believe that there was no room to pay down the \$9 billion owed to the federal government, which will now fall on the backs of our hardworking employers.

We'd encourage the state to *listen* to our business community when we say, enough is enough. Continuous tax hikes due to state government's failed policies and poor decision making are not the responsibility of small businesses and it's time they be rewarded not penalized.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me at [sduncan@greaterbinghamtonchamber.com](mailto:sduncan@greaterbinghamtonchamber.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Duncan".

Stacey Duncan  
President & CEO

cc: Senator Frederick J. Akshar, II  
Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo  
Assemblyman Joseph Angelino

**WE'RE HERE  
TO BUILD A  
GREATER  
BINGHAMTON**

Five South College Drive  
Suite 101  
Binghamton, NY 13905

607.772.8860  
[chamber@binghamtonchamber.com](mailto:chamber@binghamtonchamber.com)  
[greaterbinghamtonchamber.com](http://greaterbinghamtonchamber.com)