



CITIZENS UNION STATEMENT

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Statement by Dick Dadey,
Executive Director

CITIZENS UNION COMMENDS GOVERNOR for DECISIVE ACTION

Supports the exercise of his authority in appointing Dick Ravitch as Lt. Governor

Citizens Union applauds the decision today by Governor David Paterson to use his authority to appoint a lieutenant governor. As Citizens Union contended earlier this week, the State Constitution and the Public Officers Law permit it, and the citizens of New York deserve it.

For a month now, New Yorkers have gone from being bemused to simply outraged over the partisan chaos that has paralyzed the state senate and ground to a halt the functioning of our state government. Disorder and bedlam have trumped the public interest. No one knows who the presiding officer of the senate is and next in line to the office of Governor. Such ambiguity is not acceptable. Legislation desperately needed by cities and towns across this state has languished as state senators fight over who has the right to operate the Senate. Decisive action was needed to break this inexcusable delay and we commend the Governor for stepping up by acting within his powers to appoint a lieutenant governor.

His choice of Dick Ravitch is a sound one because of the unique set of skills and extensive experience he brings to his new role as Lt. Governor. That he is recognized as a senior statesman who intends not to run for Governor and only serve as Lt. Governor should provide a welcomed calm to the roiling political waters in Albany.

We urge the Senate to see this move as an opportunity to move into a more equitable power sharing agreement that treats all Senators fairly and benefits all New Yorkers, regardless of political affiliation.

Should there emerge an expected court challenge, Citizens Union hopes that an expedited judicial process takes place so that the business of the people of New York can be addressed without too much delay.