



## **REBUILD Western New York**

### **Revitalizing our Economy through Business, Infrastructure, and Local Development**

#### *An Opportunity for Economic Growth*

Western New York's best days are ahead. From low cost power and leading colleges and universities to international airports and a strategic location that connects both domestic and international markets, Western New York is poised to emerge as an economic leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Now, as Western New York businesses and families work to bounce back from the recent economic decline, we must lay a new foundation for long-term economic growth and **Rebuild Western New York**. That is why I have focused my time in Congress on addressing the economic challenges facing our region and creating opportunities for our local economy.

I recognize that the engine of our economy will always be our local businesses. However, I also believe that government plays an important role in creating the conditions necessary for economic growth—to ensure a level playing field and create incentives that allow private enterprise to adapt and succeed in an ever-changing marketplace.

**The Revitalizing our Economy through Business, Infrastructure, and Local Development (REBUILD) Plan** is a blueprint of policies, practices, and investments designed to expand economic opportunities in four critical areas that will strengthen our economic future in Western New York:

- **Infrastructure & Commerce**
- **Education**
- **Energy**
- **Small Business & Agriculture**

As I travel the district, I look forward to hearing your ideas about how we can help our communities adapt to the changing global economy and make the critical investments that will allow our region to emerge as an economic leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen C. Hochul".

Kathleen C. Hochul  
Member of Congress

## INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMERCE

The 21st Century economy must be built on 21st Century infrastructure. High speed internet and cell service, safe roads and bridges, and adequate water and wastewater infrastructure are critical for supporting and attracting investment in Western New York.

Today, our national infrastructure is in need of repair and reinvestment. In a regional economy that thrives on connecting markets in the United States and Canada, our success depends on infrastructure that meets the needs of today's economy.

*Congresswoman Hochul is...*



### **Working to Upgrade our Infrastructure and Improve Local Commerce:**

Congresswoman Hochul is working to secure critically needed funding for infrastructure projects—from rebuilding our roads and runways to upgrading our bridges and freight rail infrastructure. Congresswoman Hochul fought to protect dedicated infrastructure funding for our rural bridges, and secured critical funding for an analysis of alternative transportation options for the Buffalo-Amherst Corridor a stretch of road badly in need of congestion relief.

Congresswoman Hochul was also instrumental in helping the Niagara Falls International Airport secure funding to develop a Master Plan, which will support future capital investment.

### **Working to Ease Congestion across our Borders:**

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, Congresswoman Hochul is working with the Department of Homeland Security to expedite approval of plans to modernize and upgrade the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge, which often suffers from long wait times and congestion.

Congresswoman Hochul also helped introduce legislation to provide relief for burdensome passport fees to promote cross border travel and commerce.

### **Building an international gateway:**

Congresswoman Hochul was pleased to work with officials at the Federal Aviation Administration earlier this year to secure \$11.7 million for the rehabilitation of the Niagara Falls International Airport's main runway, and in November 2011, she supported the airport's successful proposal for \$970,000 in funding from New York State for a Sustainable Master Plan. The success of the airport is critical to the regional economy, and recent investments by the FAA and New York State are vital to the airport's growth.



### **Fighting for Rural Water Infrastructure:**

Across Western New York, small towns are forced to comply with over 100 complex water and wastewater regulations, leaving less funding available for the necessary infrastructure to support economic growth. Congresswoman Hochul is working to end unnecessary regulations and supports investments in water and wastewater infrastructure needed to attract economic development.

### **Investing in Rural Bridges:**

Western New York counties have a disproportionately large share of the nation's deficient bridges. When Congress proposed diverting transportation funds away from rural communities, Congresswoman Hochul introduced an amendment to protect funding for bridge repair in rural communities across Western New York.

## **EDUCATION**

To compete in a global economy, we must train the next generation of innovators and cultivate a skilled workforce that cannot be automated or shipped overseas. We need a comprehensive plan that addresses our educational needs from early childhood to K-12, to our community colleges and the thriving institutions of higher education here in Western New York.



*Congresswoman Hochul is...*



### **Fighting to Protect Funding for Higher Education:**

Congresswoman Hochul believes that every American deserves an affordable, quality education. She supports strengthening and streamlining Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs, as well as efforts to reduce the cost of post-secondary education by providing incentives to colleges and universities to curb tuition increases.

### **Working to Make College Affordable:**

Congresswoman Hochul called on Congress to prevent the interest rate on Federal Direct Stafford loans from doubling to 6.8 percent from its current level of 3.4 percent. Nearly 100,000 Western New York college students and over seven million students nationwide have been saved from this added financial hardship.

### **Closing the Skills Gap:**

Businesses right here in Western New York are looking for American workers with technical skills in science, technology, engineering, and math. Congresswoman Hochul introduced the Workforce-Ready Educate America Act to create incentives for local companies to partner with colleges and universities to match education and job training with the needs of our local businesses.



### **Working to Put Veterans to Work:**

After visiting troops in Afghanistan and meeting with local veterans, it is clear that one of the biggest fears our troops are dealing with is the prospect of unemployment after their tour of duty. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Congresswoman Hochul is working hard to get our returning troops back to work. Congresswoman Hochul introduced the Vocational Employment and Technical Skills Act (VETS Act), which would make it easier for veterans to receive professional certification in skills they learned while serving in the armed services. It is important to eliminate unnecessary hurdles for our nation's service men and women who have a high level of competence in many certifiable fields.

## **ENERGY**



Western New York has a national treasure and an economic engine in the hydropower provided by Niagara Falls. From wind to water, our region has many natural resources that provide clean, efficient energy and create jobs for our community. However, in order to end our dependence on foreign oil, we must support efforts to promote all forms of domestically produced energy, including nuclear, so long as it can be done safely and with respect for our environment.

*Congresswoman Hochul is...*

### **Promoting Jobs and Security through Domestic Energy Production:**

Congresswoman Hochul supported bipartisan legislation to increase domestic energy production to create jobs, provide affordable energy for New York families, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.



### **Standing Up to High Gas Prices:**

Western New York has some of the highest gas prices in the country. Congresswoman Hochul introduced legislation to stop oil speculators from artificially driving up the cost of oil for our families, businesses, and farmers.

### **Fighting for Fair Home Heating Prices:**

Home heating assistance saves lives during Western New York's cold winters, and Congress must make sure the limited funds available for this program go to communities where they are needed most. Congresswoman Hochul helped introduce the Low Income Heating Improvement Act, which would ensure that home heating assistance is priority for cold-weather states, like New York.





### **Creating Incentives for Manufacturers to Invest in Alternative Energy:**

Congresswoman Hochul is a co-sponsor of the SEAM Act, which would allocate \$5 billion in grants or tax credits to domestic manufacturers of goods used in alternative energy projects.

### **Assisting Small Businesses Manage High Energy Costs:**

Congresswoman Hochul supports innovative programs that help small businesses invest in energy efficiency. For example, she has fought to promote “on-bill financing,” a program that allows businesses to finance energy investments through energy savings.

### **Approving the Keystone XL Pipeline:**

Congresswoman Hochul voted for the North American-Made Energy Security Act to expedite federal approval of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. This project would improve U.S. energy security and is expected to create more than 20,000 manufacturing and construction jobs.

## **SMALL BUSINESS & AGRICULTURE**

Small businesses and family farms are the economic engines that create good-paying jobs and fuel our economic growth. Congresswoman Hochul is fighting to ensure Western New York’s small businesses have access to capital and the support they need to rebuild our economy.



However, just as businesses must cut wasteful spending and innovate and streamline services to better serve their customers, the federal government must do the same. As a member of the Small Business caucus, Congresswoman Hochul is committed to fighting for policies that eliminate bureaucratic red tape and help our businesses grow and expand.

*Congresswoman Hochul is...*

### **Fighting to Ease Unnecessary Government Regulations:**

Just as businesses must innovate to compete in the global economy, so too must the federal government. Congresswoman Hochul has advocated for an innovative government and to eliminate waste by consolidating duplicative programs and providing more efficient services to the businesses that drive our economy. In addition, Congresswoman Hochul helped pass legislation to ease regulatory restrictions on our small businesses and farms such as an EPA farm dust regulation adversely impacting our family farms.

### **Leading Efforts to Ensure Farmers have Access to the Necessary Labor:**

Congresswoman Hochul introduced bipartisan legislation to improve the H-2A visa program so that local farmers can obtain the temporary labor they need to strengthen New York's dairy industry. She has also fought to reduce unnecessary government paperwork by proposing a process that would allow farmers to file paperwork online.



### **Promoting Manufacturing Jobs in America:**

A strong economy will require an investment in new research and development. Congresswoman Hochul introduced legislation that would make the Research and Development tax credit permanent and refundable for small businesses. This legislation also includes an additional bonus credit for companies who manufacture their products in the United States.

### **Cracking Down on Unfair Chinese Trade Policies:**

China artificially undervalues its currency, resulting in more cheap Chinese imports flooding our markets and fewer American exports being sold in China. To level the playing field for American workers, Rep. Hochul cosponsored the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act, which would give the Administration more tools to counter unfair currency manipulation and protect American jobs.

### **Supporting Tax Relief for Small Businesses:**

Congresswoman Hochul helped pass the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, which has been signed into law. This legislation rewards small businesses for hiring veterans and repeals rules requiring federal, state, and local government agencies to withhold 3 percent of payments to contracting businesses providing goods and services.

### **Protecting our Dairy Farmers:**

Without action from Congress, the safety net that protects small dairy farms from plummeting milk prices is scheduled to shrink and then expire. Western New York dairy farmers should not have to worry whether partisan games in Washington will prevent them from receiving the aid they need in a crisis. That's why Congresswoman Hochul helped introduce the MILC Continuation Act, which would extend this vital program another year and provide reassurance to our farmers.



### **Helping Small Businesses Access the Capital they Need:**

In order to create jobs, invest, and grow the economy, small businesses need access to capital. Congresswoman Hochul is a strong supporter of Small Business Administration (SBA) programs that provide critical funding to businesses in our community. For example, with the help of the SBA, Congresswoman Hochul assisted the Village of Holley in their efforts to secure the opening of a grocery store in the community.

## **WHAT IS NEXT FOR WESTERN NEW YORK?**

Western New York is poised for an economic comeback. However, as we work to promote the long-term economic growth needed to make our region a leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it is critical that we make the investments necessary to create the conditions for our region to realize its economic potential. Through targeted investments in infrastructure and commerce, education, energy, and small business and agriculture, we can create an environment ripe for job creation and economic growth.

Congresswoman Hochul is committed to working with federal, state, and local leaders to forge new, bipartisan partnerships that will propel our region and nation forward. As we continue to expand on our ideas outlined in this plan, we look forward to working together to **REBUILD Western New York.**