



Renew Upstate New York

A Blueprint for Economic Growth in New York's 20th District

Executive Summary

The driving force of our economy has always been America's innovative spirit. Upstate New York has a long and storied history of economic leadership, but as we face high unemployment, skyrocketing health care costs, and rising prices for essentials like energy and education, middle class families are feeling the squeeze. We must now work to lay a foundation for long-term economic growth here in the 20th District and ***Renew Upstate New York***.

The ***Renew Upstate New York*** plan identifies four critical sectors that can strengthen our economic future here in New York's 20th District:

- ✓ ***Infrastructure***
- ✓ ***Education***
- ✓ ***Energy***
- ✓ ***Small Business and Agriculture***

Congressman Murphy looks forward to hearing your ideas about how we can improve our local economy. Our priority is to 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 21st Century.

An Opportunity for Upstate New York

A good job is a foundation of a strong family. Good jobs allow us to provide for our loved ones, educate our children, and ultimately retire with dignity. Good jobs are also critical for strong communities and a vibrant regional economy. That is why Scott Murphy has dedicated his career and service in Congress to addressing the economic challenges facing Upstate New York.

The engine of job creation will always be America's businesses. However, government can help create the conditions necessary for businesses to expand and hire more workers. To achieve these goals, Scott has developed a framework for the ***Renew Upstate New York*** economic development agenda.

Renew Upstate New York is a blueprint for policies, practices, and investments that are needed to expand economic opportunities in four critical areas that Congressman Murphy believes will strengthen our economic future here in New York's 20th District: infrastructure, education, energy, and small business and agriculture.

The Four Sectors

The federal government's role is simply to set the rules of the road and create incentives that allow for private enterprise to step in and adapt to an ever-changing and innovative marketplace. The government helps provide for the baseline physical and intellectual infrastructure, which in turn provides the framework for a dynamic marketplace and long-term economic growth.

Congressman Murphy has been working closely with key stakeholders and experts from the District, and his **Renew Upstate New York** plan identifies four key sectors that we must focus on as we work to create an environment for job growth and long-term economic success in the 20th District:

I. INFRASTRUCTURE

We simply cannot compete in the 21st Century economy with a 19th Century infrastructure. High speed broadband Internet and cell phone service, safe roads and bridges, and updated water and wastewater infrastructure are critical to job growth in the 20th District. We will not attract new businesses and residents, or end the flight of young people from Upstate New York, if we cannot meet the basic infrastructure needs of an evolving economy.

What Congressman Murphy has done:

\$50 million in Recovery Act funds for broadband – Congressman Murphy was instrumental in securing nearly \$50 million in Recovery Act funds for broadband Internet development across Upstate New York. He is working to secure additional Recovery Act funds, and he has also hosted multiple forums with business and community leaders to advocate for the expansion of high speed broadband to the rural areas of New York's 20th District.

Rural Broadband Initiative Act – Congressman Murphy recently introduced legislation that would create a comprehensive plan for broadband Internet development in rural communities. By creating an Office of Rural Broadband Initiatives and by centralizing authority and funding in that office, we would cut through bureaucratic red tape and build on the commitment to our rural communities as we did with the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

\$27 million in Recovery Act funds for water and sewer infrastructure – Congressman Murphy helped secure more than \$27 million in Recovery Act funding for critical water infrastructure projects across the 20th District, including the communities of Catskill, Granville, Greenport, Greenville, Hudson, Schroon, and Ticonderoga.

\$151 million in Recovery Act funds for high speed rail – Congressman Murphy helped secure \$151 million in Recovery Act funds for high speed rail across Upstate New York. High speed rail will connect our local industries to the global market and enable new economic growth in the 20th District. High speed rail will also be a boon for our tourism industry. This investment will help create jobs in Upstate New York both today and well into the future.

Where the 20th District needs to focus:

- ✓ ***Expand broadband and cell phone service***
- ✓ ***Modernize our water and sewer systems***
- ✓ ***Repair our crumbling roads and bridges***

II. EDUCATION

To compete in a global economy, we must train the next generation of innovators and cultivate a highly-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 higher education institutions here in Upstate New York.

What Congressman Murphy has done:

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act – Congressman Murphy helped pass legislation that would strengthen and streamline our college financial aid system and make federal loans more affordable for middle class families. This bill would also increase access to early childhood education, provide additional funding for degree and certificate programs at our community colleges, and dramatically increase the Pell Grant award.

The Post-9/11 G.I. Education Fairness Act of 2009 – Congressman Murphy introduced legislation to expand educational opportunities for our veterans. The bill is currently pending before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

The Jobs for Main Street Act – Congressman Murphy helped pass legislation to provide federal funds for education to help hold the line on property taxes. As New York State faces record deficits, our local communities are being forced to make exceedingly difficult decisions about whether to make deep budget cuts to our educational system, layoff essential teachers, or raise

property taxes to fill budget holes. This bill would bolster our children’s education, prevent layoffs, and help our local communities hold the line on property taxes.

Where the 20th District needs to focus:

- ✓ ***Strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education in K-12 system***
- ✓ ***Implement creative solutions, such as “Race To The Top,” to drive innovation and help turn around struggling schools***
- ✓ ***Support community colleges with a focus on job training and public-private partnerships that can aid in technology transfer to the private sector***
- ✓ ***Help make college more affordable to ensure that higher education is a reality for everyone who seeks it***

III. ENERGY

The 20th District can lead in a clean energy economy and is poised to gain significantly from the focus on creating clean energy jobs. New York has long been a leader in clean technology, and we can provide a new avenue for long-term economic growth here in Upstate New York by harnessing more of our power from alternative sources. Technological developments will allow us to responsibly tap into the benefits provided by the Marcellus Shale and a renewed focus on nuclear energy deployment.

What Congressman Murphy has done:

The American Clean Energy and Security Act – Congressman Murphy voted to break our addiction to foreign oil and build a clean energy economy in New York’s 20th District. This landmark energy independence and clean jobs legislation would help provide a framework for new economic development in Upstate New York. Scott fought to protect our family farmers and was successful in helping include provisions to provide a stable alternative source of income for our small farmers. Scott was also successful in adding two important provisions for the 20th District: 1) Provide for targeted investments in small businesses that will help create clean energy jobs and put people back to work, and 2) Protect the paper and timber industry by ensuring the bill included the proper definition of biomass.

High-tech, clean energy job training program – Congressman Murphy secured funds to help train workers for high-tech, clean energy jobs. The investment will provide targeted funding for a large-scale wind training program at Hudson Valley Community College. HVCC is expanding their existing renewable energy training program, preparing students for new clean energy jobs and promoting Upstate New York’s leadership in the clean energy economy.

The Green Energy Paper Manufacturing Act – Congressman Murphy introduced legislation to encourage paper companies to utilize energy from biomass. The legislation would provide qualified paper and pulp facilities with a tax credit of \$4 per MMBTU of energy derived from biomass fuels. Fifty percent of the credit would need to be reinvested in energy efficiency and environmental improvement projects on site to ensure the plant’s long-term viability. The bill is currently pending before the Ways & Means Committee.

Where the 20th District needs to focus:

- ✓ ***Foster technology transfer and public-private partnerships to create high-skilled and good-paying clean energy jobs***
- ✓ ***Encourage responsible natural gas production from the Marcellus Shale***
- ✓ ***Encourage sustainable nuclear energy deployment***

IV. SMALL BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

Small businesses are the economic engines that create good-paying jobs and fuel our economic growth. Congressman Murphy has been fighting for tax relief and to ensure that our small businesses can access the credit they need to grow and hire more workers.

We have over 4,000 farms in the 20th District that carry on New York’s proud tradition of family farming. New York farmers drive our economy, strengthen our communities, and provide the world with food and nutrients that we too often take for granted. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, Scott is pushing for policies to ensure that the 20th District remains competitive in the global economy.

What Congressman Murphy has done:

The Business Checking Fairness Act – Congressman Murphy introduced legislation to level the playing field for small businesses. The bill would repeal an outdated law that prevents small business owners from earning interest on business checking accounts. The bill was included as an amendment to *The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act*, which passed the House on December 11, 2009.

The Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Act – Congressman Murphy introduced an amendment to expand small business opportunities for veterans. The legislation would increase funding for organizations that help veterans start small businesses as they transition to civilian life. The amendment was agreed to by voice vote and was included in the final bill, which passed the House with bipartisan support on May 20, 2009.

The Small Business Formation and Creation Act – Congressman Murphy helped introduce legislation to increase the tax deduction for small business startup expenses from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and increases the phase out limit from \$50,000 to \$75,000. The legislation would provide businesses with the capital they need to create jobs, invest, and grow the economy.

Increase the R&D Tax Credit and Make it Permanent – Congressman Murphy helped introduce legislation that would increase the Alternative Simplified Research and Development tax credit (ASC) from 14 percent to 20 percent and make the credit permanent.

The Dairy Relief and Market Stabilization Act – Congressman Murphy fought to provide relief for New York’s dairy farmers. The legislation Scott introduced would provide immediate relief to dairy farmers and stabilize the dairy market.

Emergency Relief for Struggling Farmers – Congressman Murphy fought with his colleagues in Congress to include \$350 million in emergency relief to struggling farmers in the 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill. Farmers received \$290 million in direct payments, and \$60 million went to the purchase of cheese and other dairy products to reduce surpluses that have driven down farm income.

Where the 20th District needs to focus:

- ✓ ***Fight for small business tax relief***
- ✓ ***Ensure that small businesses have access to the credit they need***
- ✓ ***Expand exportation of goods produced here in the 20th District***
- ✓ ***Create economic incentives in the agriculture marketplace, such as reforming the dairy pricing system and strengthening the dairy safety net***
- ✓ ***Encourage farmer participation in programs – such as energy offsets – to provide for an alternative source of income***

What’s Next for the 20th District?

Congressman Murphy continues to seek innovative ideas that will promote long-term economic growth and make the 20th District a leader in the 21st Century economy. He is committed to working with federal, state, and local leaders to forge new partnerships that will propel us forward. We eagerly anticipate your feedback and ideas as we work to find common sense solutions to the problems we face. As we continue to expand upon the proposals laid out here, we look forward to working together to help **Renew Upstate New York.**