



## Workforce Development Institute

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December 16, 2008

Dear Clean Energy/Green Jobs Advocate:

We are living in a time of great challenges, but also a time of great opportunities. Yet even as we face some of the most difficult financial and economic challenges since the Great Depression, the way forward looks hopeful. For the past five years, the Apollo Alliance has been a leading voice for addressing the global climate crisis through the creation of good jobs that can help working families, protect the environment and stimulate the economy. We are excited that President-elect Barack Obama has already announced a major green jobs/clean energy initiative that will shift our national focus to the ways that energy independence creates economic opportunity.

The timing couldn't be more important for New York State. Our state faces an economic crisis that will only be solved by investing in job creating strategies. For years, while the federal government incentivized the fossil-fuel based economy which deepened our national dependence on foreign oil, states like New York took the lead in developing new clean and renewable energy programs. Now the time has arrived to expand the green jobs movement, and we are writing to invite you to be part of a new initiative here in the Capital Region.

The New York State Apollo Alliance is one of 10 similar coalitions that have been created in states around the country. Founded in New York by the Workforce Development Institute, the Sierra Club, and the Environmental Business Association of New York State in 2006, our steering committee now includes representatives from the Steelworkers, New York State United Teachers, the W. Haywood Burns Center for Environmental Education and the Healthy Schools Network. It is our firm belief that when labor, environmental, business, environmental justice and healthy schools advocates work together, we can make real progress.

As part of our growth in New York, and to increase the breadth and depth of the conversation that is taking place among the emerging allies within the Apollo Alliance, we are asking you to join us for a planning discussion that we believe will lead to the creation of vibrant new green jobs/clean energy coalition here in the Capital Region.

On January 16, 2009, from 9-11AM, the Apollo Alliance, Workforce Development Institute and other Alliance members will be hosting a meeting at New York State United Teachers on Troy Schenectady Road in Latham to discuss ways that we can together advance the discussion that has been taking place in our community. Our goal is to understand and highlight clean and renewable energy-based economic revitalization strategies that will create new, green jobs in our area. We are seeking your input and invite you to join us on the 16<sup>th</sup> to help plan a community forum series that will bring people and information together from a variety of perspectives and interests, from labor and business leaders, environmental justice and community organizers, to concerned citizens, educators and policy makers. Going forward together we hope to create an

Alliance of many groups who will work cooperatively with a shared vision to make things happen that will create our clean energy future.

If you have any questions, or would like to RSVP your participation, please contact Penny Hill at the Workforce Development Institute, 518-272-3500 (phill@wdiny.org), or Jeff Jones of the New York State Apollo Alliance at 518-265-0719 (jeffjones23@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Regards,

Penny Hill/WDI

*Penny Hill*

Jeff Jones/NYS Apollo Alliance

*Jeff Jones*