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Letter: Let's continue to move N.Y. forward

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By Bob Zeagle

An important election is now on our doorstep. We need to keep going on the path of continued job growth and steady tax reduction to move our great state into the future. This can only be done by supporting the Cuomo-Hochul team for governor. The proven leadership of these two individuals is well documented. Let me explain the positives they have brought us.

New York has gained over 500,000 jobs since Gov. Cuomo took office in 2011. The unemployment rate is the lowest in five years and upstate unemployment had its sharpest one-year drop in state history earlier this year. New York's unemployment rate fell to 6.4 percent in August, and it's the lowest level since late 2008. Gov. Cuomo lowered income taxes in 2011, leading to a decrease for the middle class, Gov. Cuomo also enacted a property tax cap and pension reform. The Cato Institute — a conservative think tank — gave Gov. Cuomo a "B" grade on fiscal policy on Oct. 4, 2014; that ranks him among the highest Democratic governors in the country.

Gov. Cuomo in the last four years, eliminated a \$10 billion deficit. Gov. Cuomo has invested \$1 billion in state aid to Buffalo and has been credited with revitalizing this struggling city, which is the largest city outside New York City. The list of accomplishments, all positive, goes on and on — just way too numerous to mention. Thank you, Gov. Cuomo, and now on to the very savvy and accomplished Kathy Hochul for lieutenant governor.

When Kathy was our congressional representative she paid particular attention to our farmers, the middle class and had very much tact and diplomacy. If you were lucky enough to really know her, you would know that she is very deeply caring about her constituents. She is the most down-to-earth political figure I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. When a lot of politicians think and look down their noses at you — Kathy is very genuine when she is listening to your concerns. When Kathy was our congressional representative she always voted in chambers for what her constituents wanted and needed. She is a very good fiscal conservative, yet tempered with moderate ideals and ideas. Kathy voted in House chambers for what she thought was best for her congressional district, after carefully listening in on her open-visiting meetings. Please remember that lieutenant governor candidate Kathy Hochul lives right here in our Western New York area. She is one of "us."

I encourage Democrats, Republicans, Conservatives, Liberals and Independents to give serious consideration to voting for this very successful, caring and hard-working team of Cuomo-Hochul for the future of New York state. Let's continue to move forward — it is in New York state's best interest.

Bob Zeagler