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**COUNTY DECLARES VICTORY IN FIGHT AGAINST LICENSE PLATE PLAN  
LEGISLATOR PRAISES JAGOW'S EARLY DECISION TO FIGHT ALBANY**

LOCKPORT—Sunday's news that the New York State Assembly would block Gov. David A. Paterson's plan to impose expensive new license plates on New York state's motorists led county lawmakers, who formally opposed the plan in September, to declare victory in Lockport Tuesday.

It also led Wilson Democrat Kyle R. Andrews to praise County Clerk Wayne Jagow, one of the earliest county clerks in the state to announce his opposition to Paterson's plan, for standing up for Niagara County's families.

"Niagara County—our Clerk, our Legislature, and our residents—can now declare victory in this matter," Andrews reported to fellow legislators. "The brunt of the Governor's plan would have been borne by middle-class people who commute to work; who drive their children to school every day; who live in places like Wilson and Cambria and North Tonawanda and Niagara Falls, but commute to jobs in places like Buffalo."

The new plates would have cost \$25 per vehicle, and \$45 for motorists looking to keep their license numbers—costs that Andrews noted "would have been on top of increased fees for vehicle registration, drivers license renewal, you name it."

Andrews directed the bulk of his comments to Jagow, however, noting the clerk's decision to join a fledgling band of county clerks opposing the license plates during the summer had helped galvanize opposition statewide and within the County Legislature itself.

"Our County Clerk deserves real credit. Wayne was one of the earliest county clerks in the state to announce his opposition to this plan," Andrews said. "Wayne was a leader and a partner on this issue, bringing the issue to the County Legislature's attention, and as you all know we were able to pass a resolution in September opposing this move as well."

Andrews pointed to Jagow's efforts within the New York State Association of County Clerks, which spearheaded the fight against the license plates.

"The relationships Wayne has built with other clerks came to the fore here," Andrews said. "He was in constant contact with St. Lawrence County Clerk Patricia Ritchie, the president of the Association of County Clerks, and Rensselaer County Clerk Frank Merola, who chaired the Association of County Clerk's DMV Committee."

Jagow also pushed hard to net signatures for a statewide online petition opposing the license plates.

Andrews also noted that in recent months his fellow lawmakers had announced their opposition to dozens of new taxes and fees proposed by Paterson and passed by the State Legislature, and that the victory on license plates was particularly welcome.

“Anyone who thinks this Legislature doesn’t get through to Albany—well, I suppose a lot of time we don’t, but maybe thanks to Wayne Jagow, and thanks to this Legislature, we got through on this one,” Andrews said.

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