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## **Mid Hudson Regional Economic Development Council Issues Preliminary Draft of Strategies Council's Work Reflective of Communities Needs**

(Purchase, New York) - The Mid Hudson Regional Economic Development Council issued today a Preliminary Draft of the Strategies of its Regional Economic Development Plan, as part of Governor Andrew Cuomo's regional economic development initiative. The strategies highlight the key issues currently being addressed by the Council.

"We have spent the last several weeks identifying critical issues and opportunities in the Mid Hudson Region through the work of our Working Groups and the input of our Public Forums to create comprehensive strategies that will promote job growth throughout the region," said Council Co-Chair Dennis Murray, President of Marist College.

"The work of various business and community leaders and the community outreach of the Council is a testament to the Governor's commitment to ensuring that economic development from the bottom up will be a success in our state" said Co-Chair Leonard Schleifer, CEO and Founder of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

The preliminary draft strategies include the fostering of critical industries in the region including those in biotech, information technologies, tourism, agriculture, high tech manufacturing and others. Additionally, the strategies concentrate on foundation issues critical to all industry and job growth within the region, including housing, workforce development and natural resources.

The strategies include:

- Targeting job creation in identifiable industry clusters;
- Enhancing the region's talent pipeline through its colleges and universities, One-Stop-Centers, BOCES, and school systems;
- Serving small and medium sized businesses by making it easier for them to access public and private sector resources for access to capital, workforce training and business and technical assistance and;

- Building on the unique location of the Hudson Valley and promoting waterfront development in order to enhance tourism, recreation and trade.

Additionally, the council is developing key strategies to promote economic opportunities for Minority and Women Business Enterprises and in urban centers. The Preliminary Draft Strategy Chapter released today is a work in progress and will be further developed up to the Governor's submission deadline of November 14th. The Draft is being issued to assist organizations and municipalities complete their Consolidated Funding Applications for projects, which are due October 31st, and to further provide guidance to those projects rising to the level of Priority Projects for the Mid Hudson Regional Economic Development Plan.

As part of its continuing efforts toward ensuring transparency and inclusion in the Governor's Regional Economic Development Council initiative the Mid-Hudson Regional Council has maintained constant communication with community stakeholders through Public Forums held in each of the seven counties making up the region, various meetings held with not-for-profit and community based organizations, and elected officials. Moreover, each of the Council's regional meetings has been open to the public.

The next Public Forum of the Regional Economic Development Council will be held at SUNY Purchase from 5:00pm-6:30pm today. Tomorrow the Council will host its 7th and final Public Forum at SUNY Rockland Community College from 5:30pm-7pm. The comment period for the Preliminary Draft Strategy Chapter will be noticed to the public in the next several days.

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