



New York State
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
 FEDERATION AFL-CIO**

1168-70 Troy-Schenectady Road
 P.O. Box 12414
 Albany, NY 12212-2414

(518) 785-1900
 (800) 342-4306
 Fax (518) 785-1814

OFFICERS:

Kenneth Brynien
President

Arlea Gabe Igoe
Secretary-Treasurer

Patricia Baker
 Tom Comanzo
 Joe Fox
Vice Presidents

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TRUSTEES:

Gail Noble
 Adam Sumlin
 Olubiyi Sehindemi

May 7, 2010

PEF Members:

We have been contacted by many of our members regarding the governor's statement that unions have rejected an offer for a lagged payroll and as a result the only option the governor is left with is to furlough employees.

This statement is patently false, PEF has given the governor proposals to cut hundreds of millions of dollars, including cutting contract consultants, reducing overtime and reducing work place injuries. Our position has been and remains that the state should be doing everything possible to reduce costs and waste before they even consider targeting the work force.

If this is a crisis of a magnitude that governor is demanding that the unions reopen their contracts, he should be taking every possible action to reduce the budget deficit.

The governor has decided he wants to inflict pain on the very workers that he depends on to deliver the critical services demanded by the citizens of this state.

Between a lagged payroll or furloughs there are no good options; a member said it best, "it is like choosing to be hung or shot." Both options will take money out of our members' pockets in the short term.

The short term impact of either option is that there is \$250 million taken from the state work force. No matter how you cut it, it will be a financial hardship. However, the long term implication in terms of our ability to negotiate future contracts and prevent future concessions is significant. A contract is a contract, it is important that the state be reminded of this.

Furloughs if they occur are illegal and will be imposed. A lagged payroll as the governor proposed in the press (as there has been no discussion on this since he proposed it on April 7th) will require us to re-open our contract.

Should PEF re-open its contract it would set a very dangerous precedent, the expectation is that the fiscal crisis will continue for at least another year, so what will we do the next time when the governor wants to extract concessions from the work force? This is not a negotiation it is simply blackmail. And, unless challenged, the furlough option will remain available to the governor and it is conceivable that we could be facing this dilemma again in a few short months.

We will take whatever action is necessary to protect your jobs, your contract and your benefits. We will fight the governor with everything we have. We will rally, we will follow him around the state, and we will sue him in court. If the governor wants to make it personal, then so be it. We hope you will join us and let the governor know how angry you are with his attack on you.

For up-to-date information on our fight against the furloughs please visit the PEF website at www.pef.org.

In Solidarity,

Kenneth Brynien *Arlea Igoe*
Joe Fox *Patricia Baker* *Donald Kehoskie*

