



CENTERSTATE  
CORPORATION FOR  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

# 2022

## *Legislative Agenda*

*New York State and Federal Priorities*

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# Introduction

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On behalf of our members across a twelve-county region, CenterState CEO's 2022 Legislative Agenda presents our organization's economic development policy and legislative priorities. These proposals are developed through input from our Government Relations Committee, our member businesses, key constituencies and staff. They also reflect **our core mission to work continuously to build a region where business thrives and all people prosper.**

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## CENTERSTATE CEO ADVOCACY SPONSORS



# The Top Five

## Leading New York State and federal issues selected by CenterState CEO's Government Relations Committee and staff.

### Anti-Trust Reform

- CenterState CEO [opposes](#) legislation that would change the New York's current anti-trust standard from "monopolistic behavior" to an "abuse of dominance" standard. This measure would also require state review for any business acquisitions of more than \$9.2 million.

### Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act Implementation

- CenterState CEO [advocates for market-based solutions](#); supports energy-intensive and trade-exposed industries; and urges tools to promote and fund New York based environmental technology innovations.

### NYS Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Adjustments

- Given the positive impacts demonstrated from the expanded state historic rehabilitation tax credit across upstate New York, CenterState CEO [supports](#) expansion of eligibility for this credit to include all central business districts in municipalities with fewer than one million residents.

### NYS Shovel Ready Sites: Accelerated Preparation

- CenterState CEO [supports](#) renewed investment in identifying, planning and infrastructure for the state's top development sites. (S7879 / A9114)

### USICA / CHIPS for America / The FABS Act

- This federal legislation provides a level playing field for the US in the international competition to develop and manufacture advanced semiconductors to support a broad range of industrial sectors. Our region is well-prepared to meet this need, however passage of this legislation is crucial to domestic expansion of the semiconductor industry. CenterState CEO [supports](#).

# Key Issues Summary

## Input from members:

- Government Relations Committee
- Member Surveys
- Direct Member Conversations
- Syracuse Tomorrow

Business Competitiveness - Anti-trust Reform S933A/A1812A (oppose)
Business Competitiveness – Extended Producer Responsibility S1185C (oppose)
Business Competitiveness – Small Business Tax Reduction (support)
Climate Change – CLCPA Implementation (engage for market-based solutions)
Climate Change – CCIA S4264/A6967(oppose)
COVID-19 Response – U.I. Fund Stabilization S6791(support)
COVID-19 Response (engage to support evolving needs for small business recovery)
Econ. Dev. – Incentivize Semiconductor Re-shoring (support)
Econ. Dev. – Build Ready / Shovel Ready Site Acceleration S7879/A9114 (support)
Econ. Dev. – Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Adjustments (support)
Econ. Dev. – Prohibition of IDA support for E-Commerce Facilities S8418 (oppose)
Health Care – Fair Pay for Home Care Act S5374/A6329 (support)
Health Care – New York Health Act / Single Payer S5474/A6058 (oppose)
Housing – Good Cause Eviction A5573/S3082 (oppose)
Housing – Funding for New York’s Land Banks (support)
Labor – Gig Workers reclassification (oppose, but expand “black car fund”)
Transportation and Infrastructure – I-81 Record of Decision for Grid (support)
Unmanned Systems – Continuation of NYS Tech Startup Competitions (support)
Workforce Development – Restructuring NY’s Workforce Dev Apparatus (support)

# Issue Areas

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**This year's Legislative Agenda focuses on:**

- **Business Competitiveness**
- **Climate Change and the Environment**
- **Economic Development**
- **Health Care**
- **Housing**
- **Labor**
- **Transportation and Infrastructure**
- **Unmanned Systems**
- **Workforce Development**



# Business Competitiveness

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**CenterState CEO supports policies that control the growth of New York State’s budget and enhance the competitiveness of the state’s business climate.**

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## **Anti-trust Reform (S933/A1812)**

CenterState CEO **opposes** legislation that would change the New York’s current anti-trust standard from “monopolistic behavior” to an “abuse of dominance” standard. This measure would also require state review for any business acquisitions of more than \$9.2 million.

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## **Extended Producer Responsibility Act (S1185)**

The EPR Act would establish an “extended producer responsibility” program for paper and packaging, among other products (e.g., glass, metal, and plastic). The impact of the legislation is a fundamental shift of recycling responsibilities from municipalities to product manufacturers and distributors. This places the burden and expense of recovering and recycling products on producers and distributors in the state, raising costs across the economy, harming New York’s competitiveness and ignoring the substantial successes in recycling many of these products. If the bill is ultimately passed into law, it will be the only EPR law for paper and packaging in the nation. CenterState CEO **opposes** this legislation.

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## **Privacy Act (S6701/A680)**

This legislation would create a new standard that far exceeds those of the federal government and all other states. Unfortunately, this sets up a long list of unintended consequences for businesses and New York residents, ranging from quality-of-life inconveniences to higher operating and consumer costs. CenterState CEO **opposes** this legislation.

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## **Small Business Tax Reduction**

CenterState CEO **supports** Governor Hochul’s proposals to reduce taxes on small businesses and provide additional assistance to mitigate business costs related to COVID-19 response.



# Climate Change and the Environment

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CenterState CEO recognizes the critical importance of climate change and its impacts on businesses and residents across New York, and globally. CenterState CEO is committed to work to mitigate these challenges and maximize unique opportunities to address this challenge.

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## Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act Implementation

CenterState CEO [advocates for market-based solutions](#) to meet New York's CLCPA goals; supports provisions to protect energy-intensive and trade-exposed industries; and urges tools to promote and fund New York based environmental technology innovations.

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## Climate and Community Investment Act (S4265/A6967)

CenterState CEO [opposes](#) the Climate and Community Investment Act. This measure would preempt the work of the Climate Action Council, imposing new funding mechanisms and spending priorities before the Council is able to receive input from New Yorkers and develop its final recommendations.

# COVID-19 Response

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**CenterState CEO believes it is vital to support businesses impacted by the novel coronavirus pandemic, particularly small businesses. The needs of these businesses will evolve through the pandemic and state and federal responses must be innovative and agile enough to meet these needs.**

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## **Pandemic Small Business Relief**

CenterState CEO [supports](#) continued efforts to address the needs of small businesses as we recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As these needs evolve, New York’s responses must be innovative and agile enough to meet the needs of businesses providing needed jobs and economic activity and are at the core of many communities.

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## **Unemployment Insurance Stabilization Fund (S6791)**

New York’s Unemployment Insurance Fund is \$9.3 billion in debt to the federal government, due to pandemic-related advances. Unfortunately, the burden to pay this debt will fall squarely on businesses to pay off, creating a new burden that many small businesses can’t afford. CenterState CEO [supports](#) this legislation to reduce UI taxes and encourages the state to find alternative solutions to address its UI debt.

# Economic Development

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**Enhancing economic growth is critical to creating a growing region where business thrives and all people prosper. CenterState CEO and our members actively support strategies and initiatives that expand our regional economy.**

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## **Incentivize Semiconductor Industry Re-shoring**

USICA / CHIPS for America / FABS Act: This federal legislation provides a level playing field for the US in the international competition to develop and manufacture advanced semiconductors to support a broad range of industrial sectors. Our region is well-prepared to meet this need, however passage of this legislation is crucial to domestic expansion of the semiconductor industry. CenterState CEO [supports](#).

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## **Build Ready / Shovel Ready Site Acceleration (S7879/A9114)**

CenterState CEO [supports](#) renewed New York State investment in identifying, planning and infrastructure for the state's top development sites.

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## **Downtown Revitalization Initiative**

The DRI has been an unqualified success and a catalyst for growth in communities across Central New York, including: Auburn, Cortland, Oswego, Fulton, and Syracuse's Southwest Corridor. CenterState CEO [supports](#) Governor Hochul's budget proposal for continued funding of this catalytic program.

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## **Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Adjustments**

Given the positive impacts demonstrated from the expanded state historic rehabilitation tax credit across upstate New York, CenterState CEO [supports](#) expansion of eligibility for this credit to include all central business districts in municipalities with fewer than one million residents.

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## **Regional Economic Development Councils**

The Regional Economic Development Council process has had tremendous positive impacts on Central New York and regions across the state, bringing a diverse range of local input and priorities to New York's economic development process. CenterState CEO [supports](#) continued funding of the Regional Economic Development Councils.

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## **Prohibition of IDA Support for E-Commerce Facilities (S8418)**

CenterState CEO recognizes the increasingly important role that e-commerce plays in our economy. During the pandemic, e-commerce proved to be a vital resource for people across our state and the nation. Further, in our community, this industry provides thousands of full-time job opportunities with low barriers to entry. This industry is projected to grow for years to come. CenterState CEO [opposes](#) legislation that would ban IDA support for the creation of new e-commerce facilities in New York.

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# Health Care

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**CenterState CEO supports efforts to achieve universal health care coverage in New York while maintaining high levels of care, addressing costs and recognizing the enormous contributions of health care professionals and the health care industry to our region**

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## **New York Health Act / Single Payer Healthcare (S5474/A6058)**

CenterState CEO holds serious concerns about this proposal to create a statewide, single-payer system for healthcare coverage. Due to the dramatic impacts this legislation promises for health care access, delivery, our regional economy and New York's business competitiveness, we [oppose](#) this measure. We encourage legislation to achieve universal coverage within the framework of an existing system which has delivered among the highest coverage levels in the nation.

## **Fair Pay for Home Care Act (S5374/A6329)**

The Fair Pay for Home Care Act addresses a serious and growing problem for home care providers: the ability to attract and retain staff to provide vital home care services. This measure would increase wages for these workers and ensure that the state provides the needed funding for providers to meet associated costs. CenterState CEO [supports](#) this legislation.



# Housing

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**High quality housing options, available to residents of all incomes, are vital to the health of our region. CenterState CEO supports policies that encourage smart growth and the development and rehabilitation of residential units available to all, resulting in a competitive housing market.**

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## **Funding for New York's Land Banks**

New York's land banks are among the nation's leaders in addressing blighted and vacant properties that harm neighborhoods and cost municipalities millions in lost tax revenue. CenterState CEO [supports](#) the work of these land banks and urges the inclusion of \$100 million in the state budget to create a five-year competitive grant program dedicated to supporting land banks' programming and operations. This revenue would replace previous funding through New York's settlement with the banking industry following the mortgage crisis.

## **Good Cause Eviction (S3082/A5573)**

CenterState CEO supports efforts to create more affordable housing options for New Yorkers at all income levels; however, we [oppose](#) this legislation due to its potential for significant unintended consequences which could depress development of new housing and reduced investment in existing housing, particularly in upstate communities.

## **Transit Oriented Development**

CenterState CEO [supports](#) proposals to incentivize and provide tools to municipalities and developers to spur equitable transit-oriented development. This approach aligns with a range of identified state priorities in housing, economic development, transportation and the environment. An effective program, emulating successful initiatives in numerous states, would include technical assistance and tax credits for projects that meet these goals.

# Labor

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Emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clearer than ever that the business environment is changing at a more rapid pace than ever. CenterState CEO supports policies that allow business and the workforce to adapt while maintaining an attractive and safe work environment.

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## “Gig Worker” Reclassification

People working in the “gig economy” enjoy unprecedented work flexibility and the opportunity to earn income in ways that didn’t exist just a few years ago. With this new type of work comes new challenges, including the need to provide protections for workers who do not meet the definition of traditional employees. New York has been a national leader in finding innovative solutions to meet the needs of transportation “gig workers” through the NYS Black Car Fund. While we **oppose** the reclassification of these workers, we **encourage** the adoption of similarly innovative approaches to meet the needs of other independent contractors.

# Transportation and Infrastructure

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**Our region's transportation and infrastructure assets are critical components of our economy. Investment in maintenance and improvement of these assets provides a foundation for our businesses to compete successfully on a national and global scale.**

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## **I-81 Record of Decision for the Community Grid**

After more than a decade of evaluation and discussion, it is time for this transformational project for the Syracuse community to move forward. With significant study and input from our board and members, CenterState CEO [supports](#) the recommendations in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement calling for the adoption of a community grid solution for the re-development of I-81 in Syracuse.

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## **Infrastructure Investment**

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, CenterState CEO [supports](#) increased investment in the state's infrastructure, including transportation, energy, water, sewer and telecommunications. We also support increased assistance to local governments to address their infrastructure needs.

# Unmanned Systems

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**Internationally, unmanned systems is a rapidly growing industry sector. Syracuse and Central New York has emerged as a global leader in this sector, developing new technologies and creating hundreds of new jobs every year. CenterState CEO strongly encourages continued investment in the infrastructure and talent necessary to solidify this leadership position.**

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## **New York State Tech Startup Competitions**

CenterState CEO [supports](#) continued investment in targeted business acceleration competitions, supporting emerging high-growth industries across regions of the state. In Central New York, the unmanned systems sector has benefitted by attracting high quality startup firms that have developed new technologies, brought in millions in private investment and created high-paying new jobs.

## **New York State Adoption of Unmanned Systems Technologies**

Given New York's leadership position in investment and development of UAS technologies, the State could realize significant benefits from adopting these technologies for use in numerous government functions. Notably, departments of transportation, parks and others could reduce costs and increase efficiency through use of unmanned systems. CenterState CEO [encourages](#) increased adoption of these technologies.



# Workforce Development

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**A well-trained workforce is essential to build a region where business thrives and all people prosper. CenterState CEO supports investment and innovation in workforce development to reach these goals**

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## **Restructuring Workforce Development in New York**

Effective and equitable workforce solutions are critical to the success of our economy and our community. Work Train at CenterState CEO functions as an intermediary organization, bringing together community organizations, employers, labor market research, best practices and funding to implement effective workforce programs with a focus on inclusion and equity. CenterState CEO [supports](#) Governor Hochul's proposal to modernize workforce development with a focus on regional needs, expanded access to career services, and initiatives to recruit the talent with critical skills to New York's labor force.

## **Career and Technical Education**

CTE programs have proven highly effective in helping to provide students with the essential skills to successfully transition to college and career. In addition, CTE programs ensure that businesses have skilled workers, essential to their success and that of the state's economy. Despite proven success, the state's funding for CTE programs has not kept pace with program needs. CenterState CEO [supports](#) increased targeted funding for CEO programs.

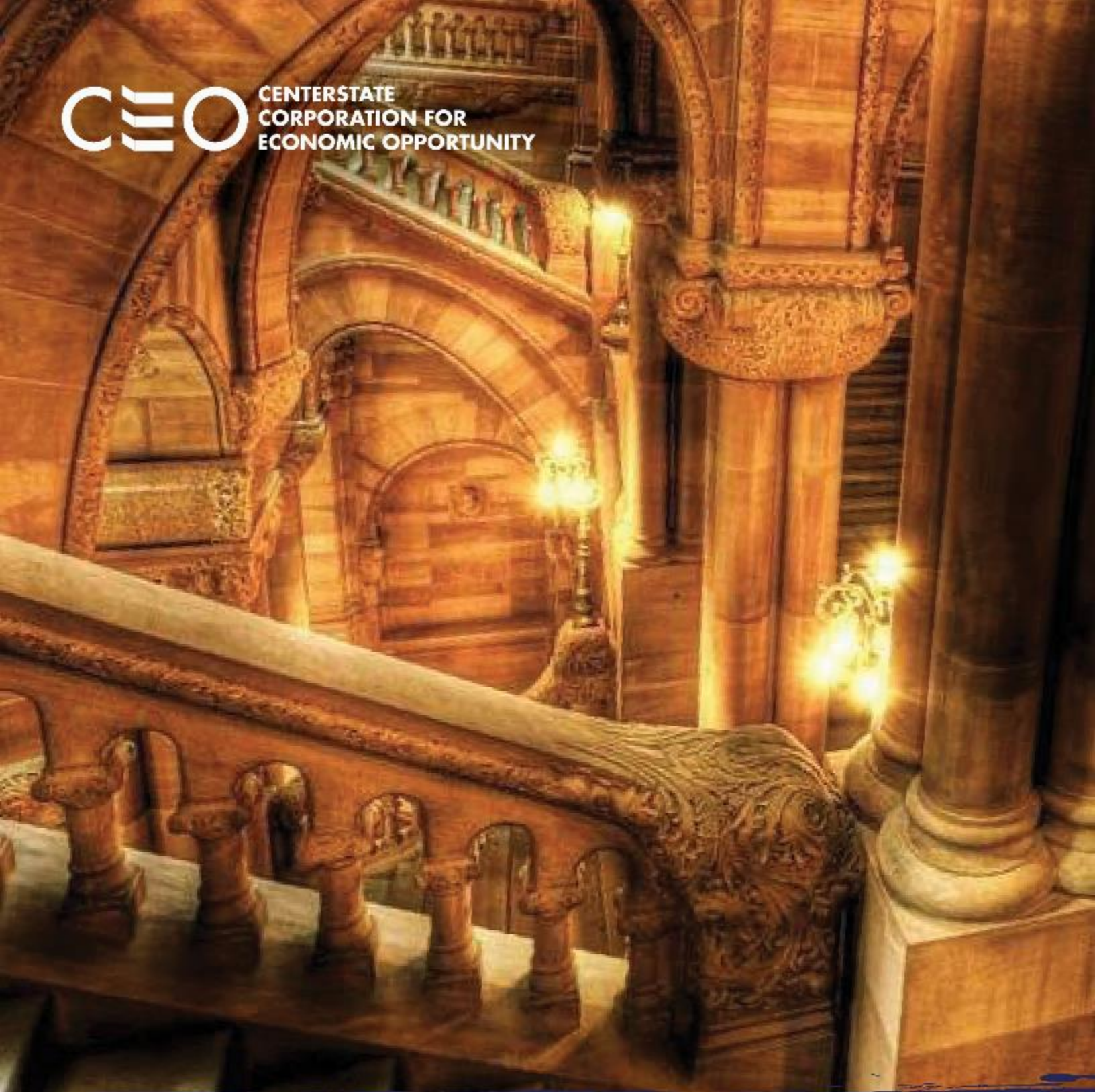
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