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## **UNSHACKLE UPSTATE RATES GRIFFO AS TOP 10 ADVOCATE FOR UPSTATE NY**

**(Utica, NY)** A bipartisan coalition of more than 80 business and trade organizations representing 1.5 million employees announced that State Senator Joe Griffo (R,C,I-Rome) scored a top 10 ranking for his pro-business voting record during the 2009-10 legislative session.

The group, Unshackle Upstate, undertook the review in conjunction with its “Judgment Day” campaign, an initiative aimed at developing a comprehensive tool for voters to use when considering which candidates to support on Election Day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The scorecard was tabulated according to points won or lost as determined by all 212 State Legislators’ bill sponsorships, committee and floor votes on key legislation and budget bills.

“When Unshackle Upstate launched our Judgment Day campaign earlier this year, we promised to develop a comprehensive tool for voters to use when considering which candidates they should support on November 2<sup>nd</sup>,” said Brian Sampson, Executive Director of Unshackle Upstate. “Today, we are fulfilling that promise and encouraging all New Yorkers to take a long hard look at how their legislators voted this year before they step into the voting booth.”

Votes and sponsorships were divided into four distinct areas: legislative votes, budget votes, sponsorship of bills supported by Unshackle, and sponsorship of bills opposed by Unshackle. Griffo scored 83 out of 100, which ranked him 9<sup>th</sup> out of 62 Senators.

A closer look at the specifics included in the group’s scorecard shows that Griffo received a 100 percent score for his support of “Taxpayers’ Budget Priorities” and he was also singled out for sponsorship of legislation to create a real property tax cap.

“I’m honored to be recognized by Unshackle Upstate for my performance during the last legislative session. This group is dedicated to changing the way New York state government treats taxpayers and the business community and I share their vision and efforts to create jobs and economic opportunity throughout Upstate New York,” Griffo said. “I will continue to stand-up to the New York City power brokers in order to protect the interests of Upstate New York and I appreciate Unshackle Upstate’s recognition of my efforts on this front.”

-30-

Complete voting records can be found at: [www.unshackleupstate.com/scorecard](http://www.unshackleupstate.com/scorecard).