



Southern Tier West

Regional Planning & Development Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 23, 2009

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Southern Tier West Names Cooper to Rail Authority Board

At its monthly meeting held on February 19, 2009, the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board named James Cooper of the Town of Poland, New York to be its representative on the Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority (STERA) Board of Directors.

The New York State Legislature created STERA in 2000 to preserve and enhance the system of railroads serving Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany and Steuben counties in New York State and Warren and Erie counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as a means of promoting economic development in these counties.

By law, the STERA Board is comprised of thirteen voting members, with the four counties each appointing three members and Southern Tier West appointing one member. The Seneca Nation of Indians also appoints one non-voting member to the STERA Board.

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STERA currently is involved with railroad operations on two railroad lines, the Southern Tier Extension line, a 145 mile long line running east-west between Corry, Pennsylvania and Hornell, New York, and the Buffalo Line, a 40 mile-long section running north-south between Machias Junction and the Pennsylvania State line. Norfolk Southern leases these lines from STERA. The Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad Company is the operator of both lines. STERA is headquartered in Salamanca, New York.

Southern Tier West is a regional planning council serving Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties of New York State. Southern Tier West coordinates and enhances planning and development activities in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties so as to promote social, physical, and economic development in these counties. Southern Tier West is headquartered in Salamanca, New York.

Cooper currently is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board. He has been a Southern Tier West Board member since 2004. Cooper also is the Supervisor of the Town of Poland. He is employed by the City of Jamestown Board of Public Utilities.

The Southern Tier West and STERA Board positions are unpaid positions. Meetings of both boards are open to the public.

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