



STATE OF NEW YORK

GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

October 9, 1998

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to all gathered for the Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony of *Empire Homes*.

This project represents a major milestone, both for your corporation and for the Empire State. With the renovation of this 80,000 square-foot facility, *Empire Homes* has recognized what other companies across our State are discovering: that more than ever, New York is the best place to do business. Our Administration has worked hard to bring change to the Empire State's business climate by removing barriers that formerly existed and which were impediments to projects such as yours. Changes such as a 31 percent reduction in Worker's Compensation costs, reductions in the personal income tax averaging 25 percent, and regulatory reform savings totaling an estimated \$1.7 billion, since 1995. Your decision to build this modern, new manufacturing facility in Columbia County reflects your awareness of the historic changes taking place in New York, and further adds to the economic momentum that has been building in communities throughout New York State over the past four years.

On behalf of the citizens of the Empire State, I convey appreciation for your selection of New York State as the site of this exciting, new project. In addition, I offer best wishes for an enjoyable celebration and a successful future.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George E. Pataki".

