

**Testimony by Dan Steinberg  
Research Analyst, Good Jobs New York**

**Submitted to the New York City Industrial Development Agency  
Regarding Tri-State Biodiesel**

**January 3, 2007**

My name is Bettina Damiani, Project Director of Good Jobs New York, a joint project of the Fiscal Policy Institute and Good Jobs First. Good Jobs New York promotes accountability to taxpayers in the use of economic development subsidies.

Good Jobs New York is pleased to offer its support for the proposal to provide Tri-State Biodiesel with tax-exempt financing and tax breaks to construct a biodiesel production facility in the Gowanus Industrial Park. This is an example of a public investment that simultaneously promotes good jobs, economic development, alternative energy, and environmental quality.

There are significant economic benefits associated with this type of project. The wage information in Tri-State's subsidy application indicates that well-paid manufacturing and distribution jobs will be created. Furthermore, because biodiesel manufacturing is just emerging in New York City, there is the potential for significant economic growth in related industries associated with cutting-edge environmental technology. Ideally, this project would be part of an integrated economic development strategy for creating thousands of "green collar" jobs.

The environmental benefits of this project are clear. Biodiesel is biodegradable and non-toxic, and drastically reduces emissions of carbon dioxide compared to petroleum-based diesel fuel. The location of the facility in Red Hook provides opportunities for truck, bus, and tugboat fleets to take advantage of the product.

We hope to see the IDA continue to support a "high-road" growth strategy for creating good jobs in a diverse economy, while strengthening our existing energy systems and decreasing the demand for energy from traditional sources.

---

**Joint Project of the Fiscal Policy Institute and Good Jobs First**