

## RESOLUTION - CALLING ON CONGRESS TO PROVIDE DIRECT AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS the largest single source of revenue for many counties in New York State is sales tax, and Counties such as Otsego rely on the economic activity of a strong tourist industry and the substantial occupancy tax that is generated by that industry; and

WHEREAS the New York State Association of Counties predicts that counties across New York State will face revenue shortfalls in excess of two billion dollars from lost sales and occupancy taxes, gaming revenue, and other fees as a consequence of the social distancing measures necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS in response to the Covid-19 pandemic counties are facing unprecedented fiscal stress as revenue has plummeted at the same time that counties are experiencing record demand for services; and

WHEREAS County Health Departments, Emergency Response Departments, 911, Office for the Aging, and many other County departments and agencies are on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19 and are extending every possible resource to help flatten the curve, save lives and return our County to normal operation as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS the healthy function of our democratic society depends on effective and responsive local government in order to provide necessary services and resources; and

WHEREAS the NYS Division of Budget has announced that budget shortfalls resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic could result in cuts of up to 50% in State aid to local governments, and that "The scope and depth of the reductions to local aid programs needed to balance the FY 2021 Budget have no precedent in modern times" and that "In the absence of Federal aid, nearly every activity funded by state government in the aid to localities budget ... will face steep cuts"; and

WHEREAS local property taxpayers cannot absorb the cost of this loss of these revenues and state aid cuts; and

WHEREAS the dissolution or bankruptcy or disintegration of our local government is clearly undesirable and a threat to the public good; and

WHEREAS H.R. 748 Corona Virus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) has not yet provided any direct aid to local governments; and

WHEREAS New York State Residents paid \$22 billion more to the Federal Government than they got back in Federal spending in 2019, and more than \$116 billion over the past four years; and

WHEREAS New York pays more to the Federal Government than the next two largest donor states combined; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that as Congress negotiates the next COVID-19 response package, the Otsego County Board of Representatives calls on our United States Congressional Representatives to demand direct assistance to County and Local Governments ; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the clerk of the Board shall send a copy of this resolution to Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressman Antonio Delgado.