

TOM REED
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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June 8, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As we take pause to remember the more than 100,000 lives lost due to Coronavirus, honor those working on the frontlines, and begin to reopen our economy, we must ensure our local governments are not left behind. The COVID-19 Crisis has impacted us all. However, local governments across the state are facing an immediate crisis that must be addressed now. They have few options to raise additional revenue and will soon be forced to cut essential services such as fire departments and law enforcement staff. We cannot allow this to happen.

Governor Cuomo, you have been given federal resources intended to help these local governments avert this immediate crisis and yet our local governments have not received this aid.

As leaders across the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, and Western New York, we demand you follow congressional intent, Treasury guidance and 18 other states that have distributed a portion of the billions of dollars received from the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* for direct assistance to local governments under the 500,000 population threshold.

If these funds are not delivered, it is not just the governments themselves that will be impacted - but the constituents in these areas will suffer life threatening consequences as a result.

The Coronavirus Relief Fund, included in the *CARES Act*, allotted \$5.1 billion to New York State, with an additional \$2.4 billion directly to cities and counties in New York with populations of 500,000 or more. Congress intended the 500,000 threshold to streamline funds to larger cities and counties while smaller cities and counties would receive funds through the state's share. The federal government mobilized and passed historic legislation that delivered billions of dollars to New York State beyond the Coronavirus Relief Fund, including \$700 million to expand testing capabilities, \$164 million in Child Care Development Block Grants, \$122 million in Community Planning and Development programs, and \$1.2 billion in K-12 and higher education funds.

The funds are there - it is your responsibility to distribute them fairly.

Ways and Means Ranking Member Kevin Brady, an architect of the CARES Act, said "*Congress was clear: relief funds given to states in the CARES Act were intended to be shared with small cities and rural communities. It is unacceptable that 32 states have refused to share these dollars to towns that need it most.*"

New York State, under your direction, has failed to deploy and share these funds with local communities. If we are going to reopen our economy and move forward from this crisis, local communities should receive these funds immediately. There is no excuse. Our local counties, cities, towns and villages cannot wait any longer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tom Reed', written in a cursive style.

Tom Reed
Member of Congress

State Senator Fred Akshar
State Senator George Borrello
State Senator Tom O'Mara
State Senator Rob Ortt
State Senator Patrick Galvin
Assemblyman Andrew Goodell
Assemblyman Christopher Friend
Assemblyman Joe Giglio
Assemblyman Phil Palmesano
Chautauqua County Executive Paul 'PJ' Wendel
Chemung County Legislator Scott Drake
Chemung County Legislator Rodney Strange, Majority Leader
Chemung County Legislator Tom Sweet
Genesee County Legislator Rochelle Stein, Chairman
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Schuyler County Legislator Carl Blowers, Chairman
Steuben County Legislator Scott Van Etten, Chairman
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Tompkins County Legislator Deborah Dawson
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Tioga County Legislator Loretta Sullivan
Yates County Legislator Doug Paddock, Chairman
Yates County Legislator Timothy Cutler
Seneca County Supervisor Bob Hayssen, Chairman
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City of Olean Mayor William Aiello
City of Hornell Mayor John Buckley
City of Salamanca Mayor Michael Smith
Village of Elmira Heights Mayor Margaret Smith
Village of Allegany Mayor Gregory Pearl
Village of Mayville Mayor Ken Shearer
Village of Rushville Mayor John Sawers
Village of Dresden Mayor William Hall
Village of Watkins Glen Mayor Luke Leszyk
Village of Gowanda Mayor David Smith
Village of Newark Valley Mayor Jim Tornatore

Village of Little Valley Mayor James Bowen
Village of Falconer Mayor James Jaroszynski
Village of Odessa Mayor Gerry Messmer
Village of Freeville Mayor David Fogel
Village of Groton Mayor Christopher Neville
Village of Brocton Mayor Richard Frost
Village of Canisteo Mayor Monica Recktenwald
Town of Clymer Supervisor Travis Heiser
Town of Elmira Supervisor Neil Milliken
Town of Starkey Supervisor George Lawson
Town of Olean Supervisor Annette Parker
Town of Cherry Creek Supervisor William Young
Town of Horseheads Supervisor Donald Fischer
Town of Covington Supervisor Jerry Davis
Town of Wheatland Supervisor Linda Dobson
Town of North Harmony Supervisor Robert Yates
Town of Benton Supervisor John Prendergast
Town of Owego Supervisor Don Castellucci
Town of Groton Supervisor Don Scheffler
Town of Reading Supervisor Stephen Miller
Town of Ovid Supervisor Joe Borst
Town of Ashford Supervisor John Pfeffer
Town of Butsi Supervisor Jesse Robbins
Town of Jerusalem Supervisor Jamie Sisson
Town of Big Flats Supervisor Ed Fairbrother
Town of Clarkson Supervisor Christa Filipowicz
Town of Parma Supervisor Jack Barton
Town of Gates Supervisor Cosmo Giunta
Town of Franklinville Deputy Supervisor Lorrie B. Fisher
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Town of Howard Clerk Rhonda Burdin
Town of Randolph Clerk Gretchen Hind
Village of Horseheads Manager Nathan Nagle
Village of Groton Trustee Elizabeth Conger
Village of Groton Trustee Michael Holl
Village of Groton Trustee Jean Morey
Village of Groton Trustee Terrance Walpole
Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett
Cuba Chamber of Commerce Secretary Lou Conklin