

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 125 OF 2019

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS STROUGH, LEGGETT, BRAYMER, WILD, MCDEVITT, DIAMOND, DICKINSON, GERAGHTY, MAGOWAN, SOKOL AND DRISCOLL

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED AND AMENDED 2020 EXECUTIVE STATE BUDGET IMPACTING AID AND INCENTIVES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND STATE COST SHIFTS TO COUNTIES

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo's FY2020 Executive Budget proposed eliminating Aid and Incentive to Municipalities (AIM) funding for all of Warren County's towns and the Village of Lake George, and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2019, Governor Cuomo announced a thirty (30) day amendment to the 2020 Executive Budget making impacted towns and villages whole from changes to AIM funding by utilizing revenue from county sales tax, and

WHEREAS, instead of restoring AIM with State funding and signifying a desire by the State to act as partners with local governments, this budget amendment requires counties to make up for lost AIM funding with sales tax revenue, imposing a new mandate on counties, and

WHEREAS, already existing unfunded State mandates are the cause of high local taxes in New York State, and

WHEREAS, counties were granted the authority to levy a local sales tax in the late 1960's to help pay for Medicaid, indigent legal defense services, and other state mandates on counties, and

WHEREAS, requiring counties to make up for the State's cut in AIM funding to villages and towns sets an unsustainable precedent and unnecessarily shifts the State's burden to local taxpayers who already pay some of the highest property taxes in the nation, and

WHEREAS, currently nine (9) State mandated programs placed on counties equals more than Ninety percent (90%) of the typical County property tax levy, and these mandated costs continue to grow, and

WHEREAS, cutting AIM funding in the first place is a tax-shift from broad-based State income taxes to regressive local property taxes, and

RESOLUTION No. 125 OF 2019

PAGE 2 OF 2

WHEREAS, replacing what had been State AIM assistance with funding from county revenues is simply a tax-shift that will ultimately result in higher property taxes, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors supports the full restoration of this state aid program to local governments and urges the Governor and State Legislature to fully restore this state funding in the final 2019/2020 state budget, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the New York State Association of Counties, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little, Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec, and all others deemed necessary and proper.