Statement from NYCOM Executive Director Peter A. Baynes on FY 2020 New York State Budget

The statement below can be attributed to Peter A. Baynes, Executive Director of the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM):

“NYCOM is relieved that all of our member villages and cities who have historically been part of the AIM program will continue to receive this funding under the state budget adopted earlier today. While we don't believe the counties should be paying for the restoration, this aid is an essential component to the budgets of local governments across the state which is why the cut incited such a reaction among our members – and why we have spent the last ten years fighting for an increase in this revenue stream. Hopefully the extraordinary amount of time and energy spent by our members and many state legislators on this issue, if nothing else, has been a learning experience for everyone involved and has helped to lay the foundation for an increase in AIM funding from the state next year.

"NYCOM also appreciates that the state budget addresses another one of NYCOM's priorities -- local infrastructure -- by adding $500 million to the State's investment in water and sewer systems. We would expect that the impending supplemental capital bill will follow suit by providing an increase in funding for local roads and bridges so that our transportation networks receive the attention they deserve.

"Finally, we thank the Governor and the Legislature for ensuring marketplace fairness for Main Street retailers by now collecting the sales tax on Internet transactions. However, we object to the budget's intercept of local sales tax revenue, notwithstanding the important purpose for which it will be used. In a year when the property tax cap is being made permanent, it is counterproductive for the state to take local revenue that would have otherwise been used by municipal officials to generate property tax relief and provide essential services."

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The New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials (NYCOM) is an association of, and for, cities and villages in New York. Since 1910, NYCOM has united local government officials in an active statewide network focused on the singular purpose of finding the most effective means of providing essential municipal services. Representing more than 12 million New Yorkers, NYCOM is a strong advocate for city and village interests at all levels of state government, and a leader in the training and education of local officials.