NYCOM continues to lobby for inclusion of a significant infusion of direct federal funding to local and state governments in the next round of federal stimulus currently being discussed in Washington. While our message is being heard and the New York delegation has expressed support of our position, this funding remains in doubt and we must continue to provide our federal leaders with the mounting evidence of the impact COVID-19 is having on municipal budgets.

Therefore, I urge you to prepare and send copies of the attached sample letter (including your estimates of lost revenue due to COVID-19) to your member of the House of Representatives, Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand and the White House (via Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov, Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs). The economic renewal of our communities and our state depends upon the federal government successfully and immediately enacting a package of federal funding to all local governments. Thank you for your support in this critically important effort. If you have any questions, please contact Peter Baynes (peter@nycom.org) or Barbara Van Epps (barbara@nycom.org).

SAMPLE Letter

State Legislature Approves Numerous COVID-Related Bills

Late last night the State Legislature completed passage of a number of bills intended to address a variety of impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two of the bills passed were at NYCOM's request – one which would give local governments increased financial flexibility with respect to BAN renewals, capital reserve fund usage, and interfund transfers (A.10492), and the other which would allow local governments, at local option, to impose a 120-day blanket extension on all building permits as well as zoning and planning board approvals (S.8236-A).

Other bills passed by both houses would:

- Authorize deferment of property tax payments (up to 120 days) and allow for installment payments of property taxes, both at local option (S.8138-B);
- Extend property tax exemption deadlines to no later than July 15, at local option (S.8122-B); and
- Establish an accidental death benefit for families of public employees that die from COVID-19 (S.8427).

Keep in mind, all of these bills still need to be acted upon by the Governor. NYCOM is preparing a more comprehensive update on all legislation affecting municipal operations which we will email to our members early next week.