

Requesting Support For Statewide Rural Preservation Program Funding

Legislators Aiello, Alfonso, Bartels, Berardi, Busick, Cummings, Dart, DePew, Donaldson, Every, Feldmann, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Hathaway, Hyatt, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, Maloney, McAfee, Meyer, Noonan, Richard Parete, Robert Parete, Provenzano, Roberti, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Stock, Stoeckeler, Tipp and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2004 New York State Governor Pataki vetoed \$2,345,000 in Rural Preservation Program funding that would support community based housing organizations in 2005, and

WHEREAS, Governor Pataki's proposed budget for 2005-2006 would again cut funding for the Rural Preservation Program, and

WHEREAS, Rural Preservation Program funds provide vital operating funds to community based housing organizations, without which, federal dollars can not be leveraged to deliver much needed programs to communities and will be in danger of being recaptured by the Federal Government and allocated to other States, and

WHEREAS, the benefit these funds provide locally can be found all around New York State, and

WHEREAS, The Rural Housing Coalition estimates that Preservation Companies statewide return \$26 in economic activity for every Rural Preservation Program dollar appropriated, and

WHEREAS, if the Governor's veto stands, Rural Preservation Companies statewide will face a cut of over fifty percent of their annual operating budget allocations, and

WHEREAS, the Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO) and Shandaken's SHARP (Shandaken Area Revitalization Project) Committee are local Rural Preservation Companies that rely on these funds as their largest source of operating funding, and

WHEREAS, RUPCO and SHARP use these funds cost-effectively covering all of Ulster County, to leverage other funding to assist first-time homebuyers, provide housing rehabilitation and home repair programs for seniors, and manage affordable rental housing, and

WHEREAS, without core operating funds these organizations will not be able to continue to administer the grant-funded programs that Uster County residents, especially seniors depend upon.

Resolution No. 101 February 10, 2005

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature, urges Governor Pataki to restore funding in the 2005-2006 Budget to 2003-4004 Budget levels and urges him further, to add to the 2005-2006 Budget, the funding that was cut from the 2004-2005 Budget, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 32 NOES: 0
(Legislator Tipp left at 7:17 P.M.)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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