Resolution No. 132 April 7, 2009

Supporting The "Omnibus Property Tax Reform And Relief Bill," Which Provides Short Term Relief And Long Term Reform On Behalf Of Ulster County And New York State Taxpayers And Further Requesting The Governor And State Legislators To Adopt The Omnibus Bill In This Legislative Session

Legislator Zimet at the request of the Ulster County Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding and Tax Reform (Chairwoman Zimet, Legislators Gerentine and Decker and Commission members: Shebar, Calderone, Gajate and O'Connor-Alisse) and Legislators Aiello, Bischoff, Briggs, Cahill, Cummings, Dart, Donaldson, Fabiano, Felicello, Gregorius, Hansut, Harris, Hochberg, Lomita, Loughran, Maloney, Noonan, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete, Petit, Provenzano, Roberti, Roberts, Rodriguez, Ronk, Shapiro, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, Terpening and Terrizzi offer the following:

WHEREAS, members of the Ulster County Blue Ribbon Commission are founding members of the Omnibus Consortium, a diverse group of state wide property tax coalitions, fiscal watchdogs, education advocates and unions, and

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Consortium has been working over 9 months to draft legislation that would reform the property tax system to provide immediate relief to overburdened homeowners through the creation of a property tax circuit breaker with the long term goal of creating a fair and equitable tax system by shifting costs from the local level to the state, and

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Property Tax Reform and Relief Bill recognizes the fiscal needs of the State and balances the needs of the overburdened tax payers with these fiscal realities, and

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Property Tax Reform and Relief Bill begins to solve the immediate short term problem of people being taxed out of their homes, while gradually reversing the inequities in the tax system that have built up over the last 25 years, and

WHEREAS, since the Circuit Breaker is phased in over several years, it will help our most overburdened taxpayers remain in their homes while still enabling the State to achieve tax relief savings in the upcoming budget, and

WHEREAS, long term, to fund services effectively and efficiently in this State, and

WHEREAS, to prevent future crisis we need to reduce over dependence on the local property tax, and

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WHEREAS, the Omnibus Property Tax Reform and Relief Bill has been introduced to the Leadership in Albany and has been included in Budget discussions, and

WHEREAS, the State leadership has stated in the press and to members of the Omnibus Consortium that the Omnibus Middle Class Circuit breaker will be discussed this Legislative session, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Blue Ribbon Commission has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members approving, and

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Property Tax Reform and Relief Bill is on file with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature and the summary of said bill is included herein as an attachment to this resolution, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature supports the relief and reform as proposed in the Omnibus Property Tax Relief and Reform Bill, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the State government adopts the Omnibus Bill Tax Reform and Relief Bill in its entirety, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, New York State Comptroller's Office, Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith, Senate Minority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank K. Skartados and the New York State Association of Counties, the National Association of Counties and the entire New York State Legislature, so that the intent of the Ulster County legislature be widely known,

and move its adoption.

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ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 26 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislators Aiello, Dart, Maloney, Provenzano, Roberts, Shapiro and Stoeckeler)

FINANCIAL IMPACT: NONE

(ATTACHMENT)

0450