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THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
SENATOR  
31<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

CHAIR  
MINORITY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
HOUSING  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
CODES  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
INSURANCE  
JUDICIARY

January 27, 2012

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We are writing to request restoration of \$22.35 million for the Neighborhood and Rural Preservation Programs and restoration of \$25 million for the Foreclosure Prevention Services Program. We realize in this difficult economy that sacrifices must be made, but completely eliminating funding for Neighborhood and Rural Preservation Programs will be detrimental to the many communities around New York State who depend on it. Also, without restoration of \$25 million for foreclosure prevention services, the vast majority of New York's distressed homeowners will lose access to the housing counseling and legal assistance essential to saving their homes.

Throughout the tenure of Neighborhood and Rural Preservation Programs, these companies have been responsible for revitalizing hundreds of communities to such an extent that some have become disqualified from the programs by their success. The companies have administered, with constancy, 62% or greater of the programs sponsored by Housing and Community Renewal including, but not limited to, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Urban Initiatives, RESTORE, HOPE, Homeownership Assistance Program, Weatherization, Clinton Area Revitalization Program, Main Street, foreclosure prevention assistance, eviction prevention and adjudications. Many own a significant housing portfolio and manage housing in their areas. To terminate this program, is to threaten the success of stabilized neighborhoods, squash the potential of those at the cusp of recovery and to sentence those affected by the recession to a stagnation and decay that will take years and greater funds to revitalize.

In addition, the Foreclosure Prevention Services Program is a vital, cost-effective program, which, to date, has saved more than 14,000 of New Yorkers' homes from foreclosure and which has saved the State an estimated \$3.4 billion in costs and lost tax revenues. With over 250,000 homes in New York State currently either in foreclosure or facing foreclosure, additional lost property values and the reduction in local tax bases will slow the State's economic recovery. If nothing is done to save these homes, New York could lose over \$61 billion in property values and lost tax revenues.

We therefore implore you to reconsider the elimination of the Neighborhood and Rural Preservation Programs and the Foreclosure Prevention Services program and restore \$22.35 million and \$25 million respectively, in your 21-day amendments to the 2012-2013 Executive Budget.

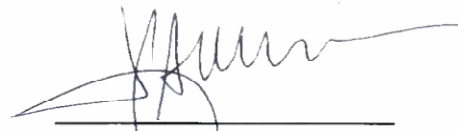
Respectfully,

Members of the New York State Senate




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Senator Adriano Espaillat




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Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr.



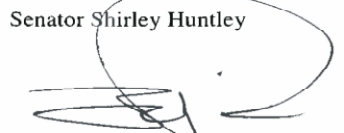
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Senator Shirley Huntley



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Senator Toby Ann Stavisky



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Senator Gustavo Rivera



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Senator Martin Malave Dilan



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Senator Tony Avella



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Senator Velmanette Montgomery



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Senator Michael N. Gianaris



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Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson



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Senator Suzi Oppenheimer



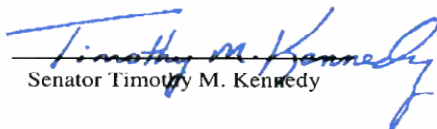
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Senator David Carlucci



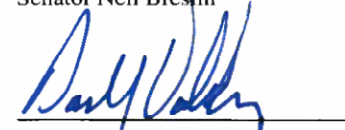
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Senator Neil Breslin



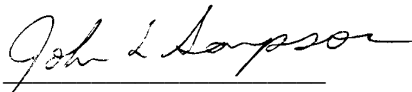
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Senator Timothy M. Kennedy



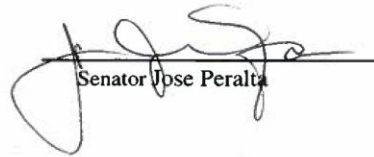
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Senator David Valesky

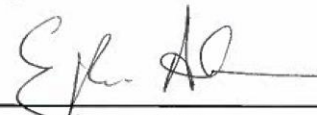
  
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Senator John Sampson


  
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Senator Liz Krueger


  
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Senator Thomas Duane


  
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Senator Jose Peralta

  
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Senator Malcolm Smith


  
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Senator Eric Adams

  
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Senator José M. Serrano

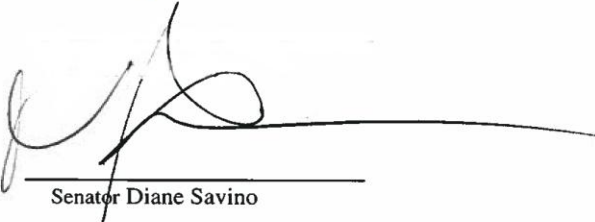
  
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Senator Bill Perkins

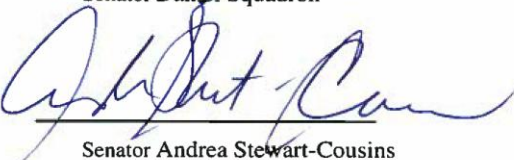
  
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Senator Kevin Parker

  
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Senator Rubén Díaz

  
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Senator Jeffrey Klein

  
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Senator Daniel Squadron

  
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Senator Diane Savino

  
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Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins