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SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE
48TH DISTRICT
OSWEGO, JEFFERSON, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES

November 19, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
Executive Chamber
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12225

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As you are aware, Real Property Tax Law, Section 467 provides local governments and public school districts with the option of granting a reduction in the amount of property taxes paid by qualifying senior citizens. In addition, New York's local governments and school districts can also opt to grant a reduction on the amount of property taxes paid by qualifying individuals with disabilities, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law, Section 459 (c).

Those who are eligible for the aforementioned reductions must file an annual renewal application to their assessor's office in order to continue to receive this benefit. The time in which they would do so is now and as you know, we are experiencing another surge of the COVID-19 virus throughout New York State. Requiring these individuals—who are among the most vulnerable to this potentially deadly illness—to visit their assessor's office to file their annual renewal application would put their health at risk.

As such, I am writing to you to express my support for the New York State Assessors Association's request for suspending the requirement to renew the senior citizens age and disability exemptions for one year, by local option.

REPLY TO: ALBANY OFFICE: ROOM 302, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 (518) 455-3438
 JEFFERSON COUNTY OFFICE: 317 WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM 418, WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601 (315) 782-3418
 OSWEGO COUNTY OFFICE: 46 EAST BRIDGE STREET, FIRST FLOOR, OSWEGO, NEW YORK 13126 (315) 342-2057
 ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE: 330 FORD STREET, OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK 13669 (315) 393-3024

E-MAIL: RITCHIE@NYSENATE.GOV

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The safety of all New Yorkers is important and it is critical that we continue to protect the health of those most susceptible to COVID-19—including the elderly and those with disabilities, who often times have underlying medical conditions. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Ritchie". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "P" and "R".

Patty Ritchie
State Senator

cc: Elizabeth Garvey, Special Counsel and Senior Advisor to the Governor

PAR:svc