

**ALBANY OFFICES**  
ROOM 909 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2024

ROOM 315 STATE CAPITOL  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2070



**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY 12247**

**ROBERT G. ORTT  
62ND SENATE DISTRICT  
SENATE MINORITY LEADER**

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
175 WALNUT STREET  
SUITE #6  
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094  
(716) 434-0680

**E-MAIL**  
ORTT@NYSENATE.GOV

**WEBSITE:**  
ORTT.NYSENATE.GOV

October 22, 2020

Governor Andrew Cuomo  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As you are aware, the federal CARES Act contained over \$7 billion of funding for state and local governments for those with a population greater than 500,000. While this was undoubtedly helpful for New York State and its largest cities and counties, many smaller governments have been struggling due to reduced sales tax revenue and lack of federal aid.


On September 24th, Assembly Minority Leader Barclay and I urged New York's Federal delegation to ensure that the next round of COVID-19 relief should include additional funding to prevent tax increases and harmful spending cuts. We stated our concerns regarding financial challenges that predated the virus, but we did not believe that local governments, workers, small businesses, and critical service providers should bear the brunt of Albany's mismanagement.

While we advocate for additional funding from the federal government, the time for state action has long passed - there are steps that New York State can and should take with existing CARES Act Funding. In the First Quarter Update to the Enacted Financial Plan, your Division of the Budget detailed New York's share of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) use to date along with subsequent plans for the remaining funds. Despite this report listing 12 different categories of CRF spending, almost one billion dollars (approximately one third of the remaining funds) is categorized as "other."

I can think of no "other" use of this funding that would be of greater value to the state of New York than to provide it to our struggling local governments. The Division of the Budget should release the remaining billion dollars of CRF money to local governments who did not receive their own CRF allotment. In order to be expeditious and fair, this funding should follow the same formula that local governments would receive through the Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM) distribution.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. As always, I remain available should you wish to discuss this, or any other issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robt - G. Ort". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a circular flourish at the end.

Robert Ort  
New York State Senate Minority Leader