

**NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE**



**SENATOR DAPHNE JORDAN
43RD SENATE DISTRICT**

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January 18, 2019

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
NYS Capitol Building
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write expressing my strong opposition to your 2019-20 Executive Budget's proposed elimination of Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program funding for villages whose AIM amount is less than two percent of their local fiscal year 2017 expenditures. As you are aware, your proposal would take a total of \$16.4 million away from 480 of the 531 villages across the state, and result in \$42.73 million less for towns.

For the past several years AIM program funding has been held flat. After years of flat funding these newly proposed cuts amount to your administration taking AIM from – and aim at – local governments and local taxpayers. It is disappointing that your administration would try balancing the state budget on the backs of taxpayers and local communities across upstate.

I have actually served in local government. As a former local elected official, I know localities do more with less and have already tightened their belts – and then some. Cutting AIM funding is a shortsighted policy that ignores the fiscal reality of many local governments working hard to stay under the property tax cap while managing Albany's endless flood of unfunded mandates – and the crushing costs associated with them.

I am proud to stand with local governments, local taxpayers and local government advocates in calling on you to reverse your Executive Budget's proposed AIM program cuts. Your cuts will hurt communities, especially upstate, and warrant immediate reconsideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne V. Jordan".

Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District

Cc: Peter Baynes, Executive Director, New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials
Gerry Geist, Executive Director, Association of Towns of the State of New York
43rd Senate District Village Mayors