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WEBSITE: JORDAN.NYSENATE.GOV

NEW YORK  
STATE  
SENATE



SENATOR DAPHNE JORDAN  
43<sup>RD</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

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January 25, 2021

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
President Pro Tempore and Senate Majority Leader  
Room 330, State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie  
Speaker, New York State Assembly  
Room 932, Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248

**Re: Requesting full restoration of VLT Host Aid in the 2021-22 State Budget**

Dear Governor Cuomo, Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

We write on a matter of the utmost urgency and importance to our respective local communities in respectfully requesting a full restoration of Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) Host Aid for Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County as part of the 2021-22 State Budget. As you know, the 2021-22 Executive Budget's proposed elimination of VLT Host Aid to cities outside of Yonkers would result in the City of Saratoga Springs losing \$2,325,592 in VLT Aid, and Saratoga County losing \$775,198 in this vital, much-needed funding. A loss of this magnitude represents a massive financial hit to Saratoga Springs' and Saratoga County's finances and must not be allowed to happen.

Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County are the proud home to the world-renowned Saratoga Race Course and Saratoga Casino Hotel and countless culinary, cultural, arts, and entertainment attractions. The Saratoga Race Course and Saratoga Casino Hotel have contributed over \$1 billion to New York State education since January 2004 and are vital parts of the community. With in-person attendance suspended during last year's 40-day Saratoga Race Course season, as well as the significant financial impacts caused by COVID-19 mitigation, and resulting statewide economic downturn, the restoration of VLT Host Aid for Saratoga Spring and Saratoga County is of the utmost urgency. Accordingly, this request represents one of our top local budgetary priorities for the 2021-22 State Budget cycle.

If VLT Host Aid is not fully restored, the City of Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County, and our Capital Region would absorb an immediate financial impact of \$3,100,790, resulting in lost jobs and essential local services being deeply cut or eliminated. Removal of VLT Host Aid as proposed in the 2021-22 Executive Budget also would imperil the viability of our horseracing and thoroughbred industries that are so important to the local community and economy.

We respectfully request the full restoration of Saratoga Springs' and Saratoga County's share of VLT Host Aid as part of the 2021-22 State Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

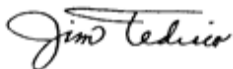
Sincerely,



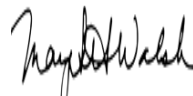
Daphne Jordan  
State Senator, 43<sup>rd</sup> District



Carrie Woerner  
Member of Assembly, 113<sup>th</sup> District



Jim Tedisco  
State Senator, 49<sup>th</sup> District



Mary Beth Walsh  
Member of Assembly, 112<sup>th</sup> District

Cc: Saratoga Springs Mayor Meg Kelly  
Saratoga Springs Commissioner of Finance Michele Madigan  
Saratoga Springs Commissioner of Accounts John P. Franck  
Saratoga Springs Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Scirocco  
Saratoga Springs Commissioner of Public Safety Robin Dalton  
Todd Kusnierz, Chairman, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors