



January 23, 2020

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

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write seeking the restoration of Saratoga Springs' Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) Aid within the 2020-21 State Budget. The 2020-21 Executive Budget's proposed elimination of VLT Aid to the cities outside of Yonkers would result in the City of Saratoga Springs losing \$2,325,592 in VLT Aid. This constitutes a serious, significant hit to not only Saratoga Springs' finances but Saratoga County's as well. Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County have continually exercised fiscal responsibility in their budgeting and cannot afford to absorb such a consequential financial impact caused by the loss of this valuable VLT Aid.

Saratoga Springs is home to the world-renowned Saratoga Race Course, Racino, and is the premier destination for racing, wagering, culture, arts, and entertainment. In fact, the Racino has contributed over \$1 billion to New York State education since January 2004. Saratoga Springs' draws tens of thousands of guests annually and the resulting influx of visitors puts incredible strain on the city, and particularly the Saratoga Springs Police Department. VLT Aid directly helps Saratoga Springs alleviate some of those considerable costs without overburdening local taxpayers.

The looming \$2.3 million hit from lost VLT Aid will have direct adverse consequences for Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County, the Capital Region economy, and long-term health of the horseracing and thoroughbred industry that are so important to the economic viability and cultural identity of Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County.

We respectfully request the full restoration of Saratoga Springs' share of VLT Aid as part of the 2020-21 State Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our bipartisan budgetary request made on behalf of our mutual constituents.

Sincerely,

Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District

Carrie Woerner
Member of Assembly, 113th 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
Saratoga County Board of Supervisors

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