



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2021

Speaker Carl E. Heastie
Legislative Office Building 932
Albany, NY 12248

Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
188 State Street
Legislative Office Building, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Speaker Heastie and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins

We write to urge you to resist increasing taxes on New Yorkers in the upcoming fiscal year. As you know, Congress recently provided over \$12 billion to New York State to relieve the fiscal burdens caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding, along with other provisions, should be more than enough to balance the State's budget without burdening New Yorkers with more tax increases.

While some of us were not members of the U.S. House of Representatives during the last Congress, Congress appropriated billions of dollars to New York last year through the passage of five bipartisan bills. Those laws included over \$7.5 billion in direct funding to the state and certain local governments in New York, over \$50 billion in Paycheck Protection Program loans to New York small businesses, and \$8 billion to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, among other important executive and legislative assistance from the federal government.

Though we opposed passage of the American Rescue Plan, many of us are on record supporting measured and targeted relief funding for New York State and local governments. We believe such funding is necessary given the challenges of the pandemic. We must also acknowledge, however, that our state has suffered from decades of irresponsible and self-serving public policies, laws, and regulations that have made living, working, and running a business in New York incredibly expensive. The exodus from our state due to these flawed policies has only been exacerbated during the COVID crisis. Many of those individuals and businesses that are being taxed at high rates have a greater ability than ever before to move from New York and are doing so. Increasing taxes in the midst of our recovery from the pandemic would only accelerate that trend.

Instead of increasing taxes, New York State can improve its fiscal standing by undertaking meaningful reforms to improve the functioning of the state government and our economy. This would be far more preferable than punishing New Yorkers for the state's mismanagement.

We appreciate your leadership and are always willing to work with you on the many challenges facing our state.

Sincerely,



Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Andrew Garbarino
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

CC: Governor Andrew Cuomo, Minority Leader Ortt, and Minority Leader Barclay, Lt. Gov.
Kathy Hochul