



Tompkins County Council of Governments

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 08/28/14 03:00 PM
Department: Tompkins County Council of Governments
Category: Intermunicipal
Functional Category: Fiscal (Budget)

ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION NO. 002-2014
(ID#5063)**

**URGING STATE LEADERSHIP TO RESCIND LOOK-BACK PERIOD
ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPERTY TAX FREEZE LEGISLATION**

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Mary Ann Sumner, Town of Dryden representative
SECONDER: Irene Weiser, Town of Caroline representative

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature and Governor have adopted a voluntary program with financial rewards for constituents if local governments can adopt 2015 budgets within the limits of the Property Tax Cap law and further rewards if by June 15, 2015 those same local governments can reduce property tax levy by 1%, and

WHEREAS, the intent of this law was to induce consolidation and collaboration of services and government entities, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County and its local governments have been looking for ways to reduce property tax burden for years and have adopted the following protocols: County-wide Assessment, Article 47 Health Insurance, Water, Sewer, Community College, Energy procurement, Highway operations, Records management, and Youth programming and recreation to name just a few, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislation creating this “Property Tax Freeze” program did not specify a limit of what could be used to show consolidation or collaboration that resulted in lower tax levy, but subsequent release from the New York State Office of Taxation and Finance puts a limit on what can be considered to a point in time of January 1, 2012, and

WHEREAS, any look back limit has a perverse irony in that the homeowners in those jurisdictions where local governments adopted the innovations years ago will receive nothing, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments urges our New York State Senators and Assemblywoman to make this situation aware to their leadership,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments urges our State Senators and Assemblywoman to draft legislation and communicate it to their leadership that would rescind this look-back period time limit and any other limits on actions local governments have made to reduce the property tax burden on their constituents and use their good offices to have this legislation adopted well in advance of June 1, 2015.
