



Douglas Austic, Chairperson

Herb Engman, Vice-Chair

**ADOPTED NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

**RESOLUTION NO. 004-08 – CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO END THE PRACTICE OF PASSING COSTS FOR STATE PROGRAMS TO LOCAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS**

*MEMBERSHIP*

*City of:*

*Ithaca*

MOVED by Tompkins County (Robertson), seconded by Town of Ithaca (Engman), and unanimously adopted by members present.

*County of:*

*Tompkins*

WHEREAS, the financial services sector is a significant component of New York State's economy, contributing 20% of all tax revenues received by New York State; and

*Towns of:*

*Caroline*

*Danby*

*Dryden*

*Enfield*

*Groton*

*Ithaca*

*Lansing*

*Newfield*

*Ulysses*

WHEREAS, there has been a significant contraction within the financial services sector over the past six months as the result of various events in the credit market and which has contributed to a general economic slowdown in the nation and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has suffered a significant fiscal impact as the result of both the specific matter of the contraction of the financial services sector and the general national economies; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has projected a budget gap of up to \$2.5 billion in 2008-09 and \$12.5 billion in 2009-10; and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) is a coalition of all municipal and county governments within Tompkins County; and

*Villages of:*

*Cayuga Heights*

*Dryden*

*Freeville*

*Groton*

*Lansing*

*Trumansburg*

WHEREAS, TCCOG supports aggressive action to address the fiscal challenges facing the State; and

WHEREAS, TCCOG is concerned that proposals may rise during the State budget debate that would not represent sustainable spending reductions, but would instead simply shift costs associated with mandated services from the State to local governments, causing local governments to either raise property taxes or reduce essential local services; and

WHEREAS, TCCOG believes the local property tax burden throughout New York State is already the highest in the nation largely because of the proliferation of unfunded mandates and the similar burden shifts and cost allocations that have been made over the course of time by New York State; and

WHEREAS, TCCOG believes further cost shifting resulting in higher local property taxes will result in hardship for homeowners on fixed and moderate incomes, deter economic development, and contribute to financial stresses that have already resulted in growing numbers of tax and mortgage foreclosures; NOW THEREFORE,



**TOMPKINS COUNTY  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

125 East Court Street Ithaca, NY 14850  
Phone: (607) 274-5551 Fax: (607) 274-5558  
Email: [tccog@tom-pkins-co.org](mailto:tccog@tom-pkins-co.org)

*Douglas Austic, Chairperson*

*Herb Engman, Vice-Chair*

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*MEMBERSHIP*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tompkins County Council of Governments hereby opposes any plan that would result in a shift from the State to local government of any costs associated with programs mandated by the State; and

*City of:*

*Ithaca*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tompkins County Council of Governments calls upon Governor David Patterson and the members of the New York State Legislature to refrain from any action that would result in such shifts of cost from the State to local governments.

*County of:*

*Tompkins*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Towns of:*

*Caroline*

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*Dryden*

*Enfield*

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cc: Governor Patterson  
Hon. James Seward, NYS Senator  
Hon. Michael Nozzolio, NYS Senator  
Hon. George Winner, NYS Senator  
Hon. Dean G. Skelos, NYS Senate Majority Leader  
Hon. Sheldon Silver, NYS Speaker of the Assembly  
Hon. Barbara Lifton, NYS Assemblywoman  
NYSAC

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