

ASSOCIATION OF ERIE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

**PROPOSED: November 19, 1998 - President John Pagliaccio, Mayor Village of East Aurora
December 17, 1998 Vote taken: First - William J. Green, Supervisor Town of Aurora
Second - Donald Holmes, Supervisor Town of Newstead
Passed Unanimous Membership Vote**

WHEREAS, the State Legislature of the State of New York has, effective December, 1999 permanently eliminated the New York State sales tax on certain clothing items, including shoes, costing less than \$110, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature has allowed local communities the option of providing a permanent, local sales tax exemption on clothing and shoes costing less than \$110, and

WHEREAS, a decision by the Erie County legislature providing such an exemption would cost the Cities, Towns, Villages and School Districts in Erie County over \$17 million annually in lost revenue, and

WHEREAS, no alternative revenue sources have been identified by the State or County to replace potentially lost sales tax revenues, and

WHEREAS, the elimination of such revenue will lead to significant service reductions or increases in the local property tax rate, and

WHEREAS, the sales tax is often more equitably distributed among all residents of our communities and paid by visitors to our communities, thereby having less potential than the property tax for negatively impacting our poor and elderly residents, and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Erie County Legislature has asked for input into the legislature's decision prior to March, 1999.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Erie County Governments is opposed to the Erie County Legislature enacting the option to permanently exempt certain items of clothing and footwear from the local sales tax, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association demands the Legislature investigate and identify replacement sources of revenue which will not have a detrimental effect on the local property taxpayer should the permanent exemption be granted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chairman and membership of the Erie County Legislature, the members of this Association and all interested parties.