



June 8, 2023

Hon. Kathy Hochul  
Governor  
State of New York  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Senate Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Carl Heastie  
Speaker of the Assembly  
New York State Assembly  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

The Association of Towns (AOT) and New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) thank you for your leadership on the issue of housing growth, including your responsiveness to the concerns of municipal officials to keep local zoning local. A clear conclusion of your extensive deliberations on this issue is that it will take a consensus-based approach to solving this multifaceted challenge.

NYCOM and AOT and the cities, towns and villages we represent want to be partners with you over the coming months in formulating a comprehensive and balanced approach to the housing crisis. A successful solution will be one that acknowledges and addresses the various barriers to housing growth in New York, while at the same time recognizing that (1) local democracy is fundamental to setting appropriate local land use policy and (2) there are many factors that go into determining whether a community's housing supply is able to grow. We strongly believe that New York needs a housing initiative that allows for each community's character, desires and capacity to be taken into account. The State should provide municipalities with sufficient resources to address the aspects of this challenge over which they have some level of control. All local governments must do their part, but they must be empowered to do it on their community's terms.

Working with you and other stakeholders, our associations believe we can collectively fashion a smart, workable and meaningful package of reforms that will immediately begin to address New York's housing shortage. NYCOM and AOT would like to offer our support in the coming months to facilitate the much-needed dialogue between local government leaders and the Executive, Senate and Assembly. Our members are eager to share both their successful strategies and the obstacles they have identified as standing in the way of housing growth. Whether it is holding roundtables or arranging site visits, we stand ready to address this complex issue head-on with perspectives rooted in on-the-ground experience.

Our associations look forward to working with you to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A. Baynes".

Peter A. Baynes  
Executive Director  
New York State Conference of Mayors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald K. Geist".

Gerald K. Geist  
Executive Director  
Association of Towns of the  
State of New York