July 24, 2019

Honorable Donna Soucy
New Hampshire Senate President
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Honorable Stephen Shurtleff
New Hampshire Speaker of the House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senate President Soucy and Speaker Shurtleff,

We the undersigned, a group of individual local municipal officials, write to you today to urge you to work with Governor Sununu in crafting a true compromise budget, with buy-in from both Democrats and Republicans. Like all Granite Staters, we have been following events in Concord with respect to the state budget. We believe Governor Sununu made the right decision in vetoing the proposed state budget.

We all agree — it is important for our cities and towns that the state passes a budget. But we also agree that Governor Sununu's veto contained very important points.

Governor Sununu has made clear that he supports many of the proposals in the legislature's budget to assist cities and towns with additional aid — many of which were also in his budget. But we believe that he is right to oppose a budget that leaves taxpayers on the hook for a nearly $100 million structural deficit. The last time the state carried such a deficit, it resulted in significant cuts at the state level and municipalities were left to pick up the tab. We cannot go back to those days.

Further, in opposing destructive tax increases, Governor Sununu has ensured that our economy will continue to grow and boost property values and provider for healthier revenue returns in our communities.

We encourage you to work with Governor Sununu to quickly find a compromise budget that will prioritize the needs of New Hampshire's cities and towns but will not endanger our healthy economy or our state's long-term finances.

Sincerely,

Tony Guinta
Mayor
City of Franklin

Scott Pope
City Council
City of Claremont

Joe Kelly Levasseur
Board of Mayor and Aldermen
City of Manchester

Bill Duschatko
Chairman, Town Council
Town of Bedford

Brian K. Chirichiello
Town Council
Town of Derry

Jim Morgan
Town Council
Town of Derry

Carl Thibodeau
Town Council
Town of Conway

Bill Boyd
Town Council
Town of Merrimack

Robert Hamilton
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Town of Rindge

Aboul Kahn
Board of Selectmen
Town of Seabrook

Bruce Breton
Board of Selectmen
Town of Windham

Jason Grosky
Board of Selectmen
Town of Atkinson

Cody Belanger
Board of Selectmen
Town of Epping

Jim Adams
Board of Selectmen
Town of Pittsfield

Gene Chandler
Board of Selectmen
Town of Barlett

Jim Allard
Board of Selectmen
Town of Pittsfield

Gerard LeDuc
Board of Selectmen
Town of Pittsfield

Joe Guthrie
Board of Selectmen
Town of Hampstead

Henry Viens
Board of Selectmen
Town of Center Harbor

Joel Deslets
Board of Selectmen
Town of Windham

John Tholl
Board of Selectmen
Town of Whitefield

Omer Ahern
Board of Selectmen
Town of Wentworth

Kathy Hoelzel
Board of Selectmen
Town of Raymond

Reed Panasiti
Board of Selectmen
Town of Amherst

Kevin St. James
Board of Selectmen
Town of Kingston

Regina Barnes
Board of Selectmen
Town of Hampton

Leon Rideout
Board of Selectmen
Town of Lancaster

Roger Contu
Board of Selectmen
Town of Hudson

Lou Gargiulo
Board of Selectmen
Town of Hampton Falls

Stephen Landau
Board of Selectmen
Town of Chester

Gary Daniels
Board of Selectmen
Town of Milford

Tom Tombarello
Board of Selectmen
Town of Sandown

Gene Chandler
Board of Selectmen
Town of Barlett

Lisa Withrow
Board of Selectmen
Town of Salem

Sylvester Karasinski
Board of Selectmen
Town of Swanzey

Skip Murphy
Budget Committee
Town of Gilford

Beth Varney
Budget Committee
Town of Alton

Steve Goddu
Budget Committee
Town of Salem

Dan Gray
Budget Committee
Town of Exeter

Brian Seaworth
Budget Committee
Town of Pembroke

Nick Gray
Budget Committee
Town of Exeter

Chester Lapointe
Budget Committee
Town of Winchester

Peter Torosian
Budget Committee
Town of Atkinson

Stephen Boyd
Budget Committee
Town of Salem

Peter Edgerly
Budget Comittee
Town of Salem

Steven Bonaccorsi
Budget Committee
Town of Plymouth

Neal Kurk
Finance Committee
Town of Weare