

**To: The Governor of the State of New York**

**To: The Members of the New York State Assembly and Senate**

**To: The Heads of the Several State Departments, Divisions,  
and Other Agencies of New York State Government**

**To: Members of the United States Congress**

**The resolutions contained herein were adopted by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns of the State of New York on February 17.** As such, they were passed by a majority of the delegates present and, in respect to these issues, represent the legislative positions of the Association for 2010.

**The adopted resolutions were first submitted to the Association's Resolutions Committee from one or more of its member towns.** They were considered by the Committee and if found to be relevant to all towns, or town government as a whole, they were then forwarded to all member towns prior to the Annual Meeting. They were then put before the delegates for an affirmative or negative vote.

**The Resolutions contained herein, if successfully enacted into law or placed in regulation, would either directly or indirectly increase the efficiency of town government and lower costs to its residents.** At a time when much emphasis is being placed on studying ways to accomplish such goals, the Association and its members, representing almost half of New York State's population, urge that as legislative proposals are advanced that relate to the subjects contained in these resolutions, you will keep our positions and concerns in mind, with an intent toward embracing them as positive steps for the benefit of town government and its 8 million residents.

**Please feel free to call upon the staff of this Association if you need assistance in resolving any issues relating to these resolutions.**

Respectfully submitted:

**G. Jeffrey Haber**  
Executive Director

Dated February 17, 2010

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## **Resolution No. 8**

### **STUDY AND PREPARE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE RESULTING FROM ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSES**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress created a commission to examine and report on the effects of electromagnetic pulses on critical infrastructure which demonstrated that critical infrastructure is highly vulnerable and largely unprotected; and

**WHEREAS**, the Congressional EMP Commission was disbanded in 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the National Academy of Sciences released a blue ribbon study that independently supported the EMP Commission's warnings that Mother Nature can also pose an EMP threat to the United States, by means of a great geomagnetic storm that occurs about once every century, very similar in effect to a nuclear EMP attack; and, according to the National Academy of Sciences, such a storm is inevitable, and may occur during the next cycle of solar flare activity, in 2012;

**WHEREAS**, economic output losses and physical harm to residents could be substantially reduced if even 10 percent of critical infrastructure were protected; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critically important to protect the public through an immediate, continuous, cost effective, and sustainable state of readiness that is resistant to foreign and domestic terrorist threats (including cyber threats and EMP attacks), and to be prepared for natural disasters (including great geomagnetic solar storms), and to provide emergency management and terrorism prevention services to citizens through an "All Hazards Approach" that builds on the creative coordination of existing state functions and local resources such as emergency management, law enforcement, fire and communications, using strategic priorities and aligning and empowering efforts by state and local agencies in coordination with private sector capabilities and resources; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Association of Towns hereby requests that the New York State Legislature create a committee to assess the dangers of man-made and solar EMP threats, and develop and recommend a plan to prepare for, protect from, respond to and recover after such EMP events; and **BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED**, that the Association of Towns hereby requests that the New York State Public Service Commission and power utility authorities and companies take immediate action to protect the electrical power grid and supply systems from the effects of man-made and solar EMP; and **BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED**, that the Association of Towns calls upon members of the New York State Congressional Delegation to urge that the EMP Commission be reestablished.

## **Resolution No. 9**

### **PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE SITING OF ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Paterson signed Executive Order 24 of the year 2009, setting forth

## *About New York's Towns . . .*

New York State local government structure is made up of four general purpose municipal corporations: counties, towns, villages and cities. A town is a general purpose municipal corporation with Constitutional "home rule" powers. More than 8.1 million New Yorkers -- or nearly 50 percent of our population -- live in towns; in fact, everyone in New York who lives outside a city or an Indian reservation lives in a town. There are more towns in New York than there are cities and villages combined.

## *About the Association of Towns . . .*

The Association of Towns of the State of New York was established by town officials in 1933 as a means for united action of the towns of this State and of the officers thereof for the improvement and preservation of town government. In 1935, the Association organized the Town and County Officers Training School and obtained a charter from the Board of Regents to conduct training courses of both a regional and state-wide nature, for various town and county officers; including, town board members, clerks, tax collectors and receivers, assessors, finance officers, justices, attorneys, and planning and zoning board members. The Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns is a peak in the Association's internal affairs each year. The group sessions for the respective officers provide not only formal instruction, but also a medium for the exchange of ideas and information. For the past 40 years, the annual meeting and training school has been conducted in New York City. As part of the Annual Meeting, town officials from around the state gather to vote on the Association of Town's annual legislative program. The goals of the legislative program are many, including preservation of home rule and local authority, elimination of burdensome mandates and a means to strengthen the partnership between federal, state and local governments in order to foster our shared economic prosperity and to improve the quality of life for those who live, work and visit New York.