State News:
The legislature completed its passage of the state’s $176 billion state budget. There were several policy issues removed from the final Budget. The following is a short list of some of the items that were “in” or “out” of the Budget:

Prevailing Wage: OUT!
The Senate and Assembly supported language in their one-house Budgets from S.1947 / A.1261 (Ramos/Bronson) which artificially inflates the cost of future economic development and discourages public-private partnership in NYS. Without an agreement among the leaders, prevailing wage did not make it into the final budget. This issue will likely be brought up as a stand-alone bill this session. NRLA joined 40 other business, building, construction, economic development, health care, and affordable housing groups in a coalition effort called “Don’t Block NY Building.” Together we will oppose legislation that jeopardizes the prevailing wage in NY.

Adult-Use Cannabis Program: OUT!
With so many questions to be answered, the Governor and leaders in the Senate and Assembly agreed to remove this from the Budget and take it up during the regular session. This issue will require more in-depth discussion as it is unclear at this point if an agreement can be reached before session ends.

Plastic Bag Ban: IN!
Effective March 1, 2020, single-use plastic bags will be banned, except for a variety of food storage bags, newspaper delivery bags, bulk sale item bags, trash bags, or pharmacy bags. Counties will have the option for retailers to charge a five-cent fee for the use of paper bags.

Real Property Tax Cap: IN!
The final budget included the Governor’s proposal to make the real property tax cap permanent. The cap was first installed in 2011, and Governor Cuomo insisted that it be made permanent in the Budget. The cap limits the growth in property taxes to 2 percent a year or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower.

Marketplace Providers Collect Sales Tax: IN!
Governor Cuomo’s Budget proposal requires “marketplace providers” to collect sales tax on sales of tangible personal property it facilitates; marketplace provider defined as providing the sales forum and collects receipts on behalf of a seller, regardless of the volume of sales they facilitate. The Legislature agreed with the Governor’s proposal, with an amendment that established an applicability threshold for marketplace providers at $300,000 in sales and 100 transactions during a four-quarter period.

NRLA submitted comments to the NYS DEC on their Proposed Rule Making with Hearings Scheduled to regulate Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in Architectural and Industrial Maintenance (AIM) Coatings. The purpose of the regulations is to set new and lower VOC limits for certain coating categories as well as to update categories and methods. The regs apply to any person that supplies, sells, offers for sale or manufactures architectural coatings for use in NYS. The hearings will be held on May 6, 2019 at 11:00 am at the DEC Office in Albany; and on May 13, 2019 at 11:00 am at SUNY Stony Brook. For a copy of the regs and the letter, contact Kirk Ives at kives@nrla.org

Questions?
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