

October 9, 2015

**RE: Weekly Policy Update**

**I. 100th Annual League Conference**

**II. Action Needed on Verizon BPPT Bills**

**II. NJAFM Conference**

**IV. Best Practices Checklist for CY Municipalities is due Friday, October 16**

Dear Mayor:

Here is a brief recap of some policy issues of interest:

**I. 100th Annual League Conference**

The conference housing registration deadline is today. Deadlines for Pre-registration and Resolutions have passed. Onsite registration for this historic conference will be available at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

For links and full schedule updates and to purchase meal function tickets go to: <https://nj-njslom.civicplus.com/518/Conference-Archive>

**II. Action Needed on Verizon BPPT Bills**

As discussed in our [August 12 Update](#) (item **V. A-366/ S-1713 – Would Protect and Restore Local Revenues**), in more and more municipalities every year, Verizon is exempting itself from the payment of its Business Personal Property Taxes (BPPT). Please check with your Chief Financial Officer to see what the loss of these revenues, which are meant to provide funding for basic services and to lessen taxes for your residents and local businesses, means or would mean to your budget.

This issue has been tied up in State Tax Court for over five years. We cannot assume that the court will dispose of this matter any time soon. In order to prevent any more losses by any more municipalities, we need for the Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign the companion bills that would address this problem. That legislation was introduced by Assemblyman Ralph Caputo and Senator Bob Smith, to provide clear direction to the courts regarding the legislature's intent to protect residential taxpayers when the laws regarding State taxation of telecommunications providers were reformed in 1997.

At this time, A-366 awaits action in the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee; and S-1713 needs to be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. Please contact your legislators and urge them to support these bills. And, as Election Day approaches, please make certain all candidates for the General Assembly in your District are aware of the need for this remedy.

If your municipality has not lost this BPPT revenue yet, it almost surely will at some time. Please urge legislators and legislative candidates to commit to action. **Contact:** Jon Moran at [jmoran@njslom.org](mailto:jmoran@njslom.org) or 609-695-3481, ext. 121

### **III. NJAFM Conference**

The New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) is holding its 2015 Conference starting on October 20, 2015 at Bally's in Atlantic City. For details, please go to: <http://www.njafm.org/resources/Documents/2015%20Conference%20concurrent%20sessions%2010-5-15.pdf>

### **IV. Best Practices Checklist for CY Municipalities is due Friday, October 16**

As a reminder the Best Practices Checklist for Calendar Year or Transitional Fiscal Year municipalities is due by Friday, October 16. For more information [click here](#) **Contact:** Lori Buckelew, [lbuckelew@njslom.org](mailto:lbuckelew@njslom.org) or 609-695-3481, ext.112

Sincerely,

Michael J. Darcy, CAE Executive  
Director