



NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

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April 8, 2009

SEAN T. KEAN

SENATOR

Ms. Gloria Benaroch
15 Osborne Place
Sea Bright, NJ 07760

Dear Ms. Benaroch:

Thank you for contacting us regarding the Governor's proposal to suspend property tax deductions on **state** income taxes for all non-senior households. Thanks to the opposition from citizens, such as you, the Governor has announced that he is withdrawing his proposal to eliminate the property tax deduction. We are relieved that public reaction resulted in the Governor's retreat from his ill-advised scheme to eliminate the property tax deduction. We share your concern and the concern of all the residents of New Jersey regarding our state's fiscal problems and believe they stem from years of fiscal mismanagement and government abuse. State spending has increased and raising taxes **and** fees did little to rein in skyrocketing property taxes. Continuing to raise these items will only contribute to the mass exodus of our residents and add to the already long lines at unemployment. Our state now has the distinction of being the most heavily taxed in the union. And, as you well know, hardworking taxpayers like you are already being forced to cough up even more of your hard-earned money to pay for Trenton's free-spending ways.

Especially during these difficult economic times, we will continue to oppose any new taxes and remain committed to reducing state spending, cutting taxes, eliminating waste in government and saving jobs. Spending cuts to reduce the high cost of property taxes should be the Legislature's first priority in an effort to reduce the tax burden on New Jersey residents. As we are sure you are aware, the cost of living in New Jersey, especially the cost of property taxes, has become extremely expensive. It is critical that the members of the Legislature look at ways to reduce spending.

Thank you for taking the time to contact us regarding the Governor's budget proposal. We will work on behalf of our constituency to reduce spending, address property tax reform and protect the property tax deductions and ensure that they remain available to all households.

Sincerely,

Sean T. Kean
Senator

Mary Pat Angelini
Assemblywoman

David Rible
Assemblyman

STK/MPA/DR/tf