



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Governor Murphy,

It was good to hear you say that you would not raise any more taxes if elected again. It was better to read that you also said you want taxes to go down. I'm surprised, shocked actually, by both statements.

Instead of being theoretical, you could commit to lowering some specific taxes during the lame duck session whether or not you win the election. If you believe that is the right thing to do, you should be doing it either way.

You have the power to push Speaker Coughlin to bring bills to the floor for a vote. Here is a list of tax cuts that are readily available. Will you commit to pushing these through and making them law, or are you just lobbing empty promises for election sound bites?

Bills to consider:

1. A1774, sponsored by Asw. Munoz, Dunn and Asm. Space among others, which indexes income tax brackets to inflation – as most states and the federal government do – so when people get cost-of-living pay raises and prices rise, income taxes won't increase.
2. A2415, sponsored by Asm. Wirths, Thomson and Asw. DeCroce among others, which eliminates the income tax bracket penalizing people earning under \$70,000 for being married by charging them 150 percent more than a single person earning the same amount.
3. A3928, sponsored by Asm. DePhillips, Asw. Vainieri Huttle and myself, which increases the property tax deduction for renters to 30% - consistent with eliminating the poverty level of income that goes toward housing – from 18%. Saving renters thousands of dollars annually while barely affecting income tax revenue.

4. A476 or A3482, sponsored by Asm. Webber, Conaway and Space, and Asm. Scharfenberger respectively, which would lower property taxes by giving back Energy Tax Receipts to municipalities instead of being stolen from the state. Every dollar in ETR given back should be required to be discounted from municipal rates.

5. A4936, sponsored by Asm. DeAngelo, Webber and myself, which limits the "tobacco and vapor products tax" on cigars to up to \$0.50 per cigar, making the state more competitive and would increase revenue. Hopefully, this small example would extol the benefits of tax cuts on generating economic activity, which you can see through your EDA programs.

Please let me know if you intend to make good on your promises of the last few days by committing to passing these bills. Once I hear from you, I will contact the Speaker and ask that these bills be passed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Bergen".

Brian Bergen
Assemblyman