ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2921

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 2921 without my approval.

Today, I signed the Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations Act prepared and passed by the legislative majority. That budget, which contained billions of dollars in spending, failed to address the single issue that strikes at the heart of our shared interests and our continued prosperity: immediate tax relief for all New Jersey residents. To the contrary, and for the third time in as many years, the legislative majority has proposed raising income taxes as a solution to years of leaderless governance that was the norm in Trenton before January 2010.

Accompanying that budget were a number of additional bills, including this proposal, that would ladle on even more government spending. Separating these bills from the Appropriations Act is little more than a thinly veiled attempt to circumvent the tough choices required to meet the constitutional obligation of passing a balanced budget. Some elected officials persist in the convenient thinking, honed to perfection in the years prior to my Administration, that a spending bill or a tax increase passed outside the budget is not really taxing and spending as usual. But as every homeowner with a mortgage, every student with a tuition bill, and every business with a delivery knows, simply wishing for more money to pay the bills is a reckless, childish, guaranteed path towards financial disaster.
for the people whose welfare we are privileged to help protect.

Join me in the great and worthy task of leadership within and across our state, and welcome all members of the Legislature to
will continue to answer the call to action that lies today.

sacrificed in the past are rewarded with a better tomorrow. I
that are fair, to the components that ensure those who have
harder road, the difficult climb, the fight for principles present. But we are new Jerseyans, we do not shy away from the
forward and it was noted that government has "plowed over" these decades ago, it was noted that government has "plowed
live within our collective means." In a statement, he then more than
attacks to raise taxes, I implored the Legislature to learn to
Twelve months ago, in reflecting the second of three
for our next fiscal year, rather than next June.

for the people who are expected by the people. If the
constituency, and expected by the people. I am
worse, I am
refusal to accept this excess spending is not a common on the
million of government spending for the coming fiscal year. My
are no different, taken together, they would add more than $775
These bills passed by the Legislature outside the budget
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Chief Comptroller to the Governor
/s/Chartes B. Morena

Attest:

Governor
/s/Chartes B. Morena

Respectfully,

without my approval,

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2921

Executive Department

STATE OF NEW JERSEY