STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2925
(First Reprint)

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 1, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 2925 (First Reprint) 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.

In the spirit, in the great and worthy task of leadership, and

will continue to answer the call to action that rings loudly

in our state, and welcome all members of the legislature to

with a better tomorrow, I

sincerely believe that our present, but essential, choices of the

different kind of action. We do not shy away from the

promise, but we are new Jerseyans, we do not shirk our

challenge, for policy and security, and our children's

decades ago. It was needed then. Government has changed,

Three decades ago, I was among those who, more than

life within our collective means. In a similar vein, more than

attain the legislative to raise taxes, I implored the legislature to raise
two weeks ago. In reflecting the second of three

For our next fiscal year, rather than next June,

dollars. Those changes should begin now, as we begin planning

spending agree on the competing proposals for raising taxes

and property, and house and home security debate the merits of their preferred

legislature in advancing the ideas, let the members

the constitution, and expected by the people of the people. If the

budget without identifying cuts and look at the

expenditures. I am not a member of the

request to accept this excess spending for the coming fiscal year. My

million of government spending for the coming fiscal year. My

are no different, taken together, they would add more than $279

bills passed by the legislature outside the budget.
Chief Counsel to the Governor

/s/Charles B. Kckerman

Respectfully,

[Seal]

[Printed: Respectfully, I request your approval.]

Accordingly, I recommend Assembly Bill No. 2925

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