To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 257 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 with and across our state, and welcome all members of the Legislature to will continue to answer the call to action that those loudly expressed in the past are rewarded with a better tomorrow. I

that are felt, or the consequences that ensue when those who have neither read the difficult decision, the fight for prudence is present. But we are very Deserving. We do not shy away from the

burden upon ourselves, mortgaging our future and our children's
decades ago. It was noted that government has "failed to live within our collective means. In a similar vein, more than

are attempts to raise taxes, I implored the Legislature to learn to
twelve months ago, in reflecting the second of three

For our next fiscal year, neither than next June.

dollars. That debate should begin now, as we begin planning

spending against the competing proposals for cuts to taxpayers' and honestly debate the merits of their proposed

Legislative is serious in advancing these ideas, let the members

of the Constitution, and expressed by the people. If the

budget without justifying or justifying reductions as required by

the attempt to simplify and maintain our dollars to the

merits of the Legislative initiatives, instead, I am

refused 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 $275

These bills passed by the Legislature constitute the budget
Chief Counsel to the Governor
/s/ Charles B. McKenna
Attent:

Governor
/s/ Chris Christie
Respectfully,

Accordingly, I hereby return Senate Bill No. 257 without

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Executive Department
State of New Jersey