To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 1566 (Fifth 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 majorityhas 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 pledged 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
with confidence to answer the call to action that things loud
speak with the past are rewarded with a better tomorrow.
I

promised, but we are New Jerseyans. We do not shy away from the
for the difficult decisions, the difficulties that present, but we are New Jerseyans. We do not shy away from the
courage to avoid the inconvenience, but essential, course of the
decision. When danger, mortgaging our future and our children’s
three decades ago, it was noted that government was needed
live within our collective means. In a similar vein, more than
attempts to raise taxes, I implore the legislature to learn to

Twelve months ago, in reflecting the second of three
for our next fiscal year, rather than next June.

dated. That debate, that debate should begin now, as we begin planning
spending agenda, the competing proposals for raising taxpayer
opportunity and honesty define the merits of their preferred
legislature is serious in advancing these ideas, let the members
the constitution, and expected by the people. If the
by the constitution, and expected by the people. If the
are嗖 without dictating or dictating reductions as required by
reflecting the attempt to study and mitigate our excessive
measure of those legislative initiatives. Instead, I am
refusal to accept this excessive spending is not a comment on the
million of government spending for the coming fiscal year. My
are no different, taken together, they would add more than 370
These bills passed by the legislature outside the budget

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Chief Counsel to the Governor
/s/ Charles E. McKenna

Respectfully,

Governor
/s/ Chris Christie

[seal]

Regrettably, without my approval, accordingly, I hereby return Senate Bill No. 1566 (et al.)