To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 2950 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 who are gathered here 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 their fellow leaders. I
sacrificed in the past are exemplified with a better tomorrow. I
that are facts of the accomplishment that ensure those who have
bared the brunt of the difficult decision, the fight for properties
present, but we are now free to change. The future is not far away. We
future to avoid the incomprehensible, but essential, changes of the
debt have become a reality. Discriminating our future and our children’s
three decades ago, it was needed that government was deemed
live within our collective means. In a similar vein, more than
acquire products to raise taxes. I implore the legislature to learn to
three months ago, I’m referring to the second of June.

For our next fiscal year, rather than next June.
decides, that dialogue should begin now. As we begin planning
spending agenda, the competing proposals for using taxpayer
penalty and honesty bear the weight of the people’s elected
legislators is serious in advancing these ideas, the members
constituency, and expected by the people. If the
the constitution, and expected by the people. By
budget without damaging averse to spending as required by
rejection of the attempt to simplify all matters of dollars to
merits of these legislative initiatives. Instead, I am
referred to accept this excess spending for the coming fiscal year. My
million of government spending for the coming fiscal year, they would add
are no different. Taken together, they would add more than $750
these bills passed by the legislature outside the budget.
Chief Counsel to the Governor
/s/ Charles D. Merkner

Albers:

Governor
/s/ Charles Christoff
Respectfully,

without my approval,

Accordingly, I recommend Return Assembly Bill No. 2950

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF NEW JERSEY