



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICE: 219 Bedford Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710-0385  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 385, Bellmore, NY 11710-0385  
SUSAN BERGTRAUM, PRESIDENT

Tel (516) 781-2053 Fax (516) 679-0401  
e-mail: info@nssba.org  
LORRAINE DELLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 31, 2007

**TO: Long Island Senate and Assembly Delegations**

**FROM: Susan Bergtraum, President**  
**Martin Kaye, Legislation Committee Chair**

**RE: Wicks Law**

Sometimes a half-a-loaf is not better than none. Governor Spitzer's tweaking of the arcane and costly Wicks Law does little to stem its unconscionable waste of taxpayer dollars.

Nothing short of outright repeal will be sufficient to bring to a halt decades of public funds being siphoned off from the school construction projects voted upon by your constituents.

In approving school bond proposals, the willingness of voters to accept the resulting tax burden has an attendant expectation that tax dollars will be spent wisely. We can provide them with no rationale for the continued waste of an estimated 10-30 percent of construction costs due to the Wicks Law.

New York is now the sole state that retains the costly and onerous mandates of this outdated law. You may have little opportunity in the foreseeable future to rid us of this less than honorable distinction. We urge you to not pass on this chance to put an end to 86 years of indefensible waste. Inform your leadership that grossly inadequate exemption thresholds and pressure to negotiate Project Labor Agreements with construction unions are not a deal that will pass muster with Long Island taxpayers.

cc: Honorable Joseph L. Bruno,  
Senate Majority Leader  
Honorable Malcolm A. Smith,  
Senate Minority Leader  
Honorable Sheldon Silver,  
Speaker of the Assembly  
Honorable James Tedisco,  
Assembly Minority Leader