



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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LORRAINE DELLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 4, 2009

TO: The Honorable Brian X. Foley, New York State Senate
The Honorable Craig Johnson, New York State Senate

cc: Long Island NYS Senate and Assembly Delegations
Governor David A. Paterson
Senate Majority Leader Malcolm A. Smith
Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Silver
The Honorable Suzi Oppenheimer, Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hon. Catherine Nolan, Chair, Assembly Education Committee

From: Jim Kaden, President
Fran Greenspan, Legislation Chair

RE: REJECT THE GOVERNOR'S MTA BAILOUT SCHEME!!!

Thank you for standing firm against the imposition of the MTA payroll tax on schools. We're down to the wire and counting on your continued opposition to the tax scheme that would be costly to Long Island schools and local property taxpayers.

The Governor's proposal does not exempt school districts from the payroll tax; his plan would tap already barebones budgets to fund the MTA, with a promise of future state reimbursement from an undesignated source within a state budget awash with billions of dollars in red ink.

Surely you recognize Governor Paterson's MTA bailout scheme for what it is...an open-ended line of credit using suburban school property taxpayers' money as collateral.

This raid on suburban school budgets with less than two months left in the fiscal year siphons off more than \$12.2 million from budgets approved by voters in May 2008. This would be in addition to the estimated \$24.4 million that would have to be appropriated from the 2009-10 budgets that go to voters on May 19.

The Governor's plan would hijack voter-approved educational funding and leave school boards with no choice but to cut further into already lean budgets.

THERE IS NO PLACE IN GOOD GOVERNMENT FOR A RAID ON SCHOOL FUNDS TO BAIL OUT A TRANSIT SYSTEM.

WE IMPLORE YOU TO STAND FIRM AGAINST ADDING SUBURBAN SCHOOLS TO THE LIST OF HIDDEN SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR THE MTA!