

December 2001

Assembly Speaker
Hon. Jack Collins (District 03)
63 East Avenue
Woodstown, NJ 08098

Dear Speaker,

I write to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1126 because if passed, it will cause property taxes to increase in New Jersey by limiting the ability of school districts to contract for noneducational services with private businesses. Last year, taxpayers saved an estimated \$28 million – perhaps as much as \$58 million – in property taxes because school districts contracted with independent bus, cafeteria, and custodial services.

Seeking the approval of unions before contracting for these noneducational services will add another bureaucratic layer to an already complex process. More bureaucracy will cost taxpayers more of their hard-earned income, even though the average New Jersey homeowner already paid \$4,424 in property taxes last year, the highest amount that property taxpayers paid in any state in the nation.

Senate Bill 1126 is an obvious attempt to increase union power at the expense of taxpayers already over-burdened by the cost of government. Effective cost-cutting measures like contracting with independent businesses should not be sacrificed to the preferences of a union.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,