

April 21, 2010

Hon. Peter Shumlin, President Pro Tem  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05363

Re: Raising the Property Tax Rate

Dear Peter,

It is my understanding that the Senate is considering raising the statewide school education tax by 1 penny. As you will recall, the House bill level funded this tax rate in response to the level funding of school budgets across the state.

It is my opinion that if the State is willing to raise the property tax to meet the obligations of the General fund, than all revenues and other sources of funding must also be considered to meet those obligations. To continue to have a bright line in the sand for all revenues EXCEPT THE PROPERTY TAX is at best bad policy and certainly is hypocritical.

Clearly General Fund obligations have to be met, but it is time to stop treating this State imposed property tax as though it is not a tax increase. I sincerely hope that the Senate will be able to find a more equitable solution than further burdening Vermont's property tax payers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Ann Manwaring  
Windham 2

Cc: Senator Susan Bartlett  
Senator Ann Cummings  
Senator Dick Sears  
Senator Jeanette White  
Senator Bob Hartwell