

172 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
SENATE BOX 203020
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3020
(717) 787-7428
FAX (717) 787-9242

22 DALLAS SHOPPING
CENTER
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DALLAS, PA 18612
(570) 675-3931
FAX (570) 674-5037
TOLL FREE (888) 736-1153

2512 ROUTE 6
HAWLEY, PA 18428
(570) 226-5960
FAX (570) 226-5964

lbaker@psen.gov
senatorbaker.com

STATE SENATOR
LISA BAKER
20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



Senate of Pennsylvania

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May 16, 2014

Peter J. Zug, Executive Director
Governor's Center for Local Government Services
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Zug:

Thank you and the State Tax Equalization Board for taking the time to join in the discussion regarding disparities in the percentage of property taxes homeowners in Lehigh Township, Wayne County pay to the North Pocono School District. After hearing the information shared at yesterday's meeting, I think we all acknowledge that this is a problem that has gone unresolved for too long. The question is how the parties involved can work together to find a fair and equitable solution.

I appreciate your offer to send a field representative to Lackawanna County to analyze the assessments, property transactions and other data used in the equalization equation to determine what can be done to correct this imbalance. Under the circumstances, I believe an expedited review is appropriate and necessary. I ask that every effort be made to ensure this work is completed by the end of the summer. My office will be in touch to schedule a meeting in September to review your findings and the corrective measures that can be undertaken to bring property tax fairness to my constituents in Lehigh Township.

Again, thank you for your willingness to address this long-standing issue. I am hopeful that we are nearing an amicable resolution that is in the best interest of students and taxpayers. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions, or if I can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Baker".

Lisa Baker
Senator

pc: Lackawanna County Assessment Office
North Pocono School District
Wayne County Commissioners

Lehigh Township Supervisors
Representative Mike Peifer
Wayne County Chief Assessor