

Dear Assemblyman Raia:

I am a deeply concerned resident and taxpayer of Northport/East Northport located in the Town of Huntington on Long Island. I am writing regarding actions being taken by the Long Island Power Authority that directly affect me as a taxpayer and that will permanently damage and potentially destroy my community.

My neighbors and I would like to thank you for the leadership and support you have shown on the issues surrounding the tax assessment of the Northport Power Plant. We greatly appreciate your introduction of legislation to provide access to some potential forms of relief to our school district in the face of a possible devastating drop in the assessed value of the power plant.

For over 50 years, my neighbors and I have lived with the daily impact of housing the Northport Power Plant with its four smoke stacks that rise hundreds of feet along Long Island Sound. We have dealt with the soot from the plant on our homes and cars and the many other inconveniences and consequences that come with living with a power plant in your backyard. Yet through it all, we have accepted the plant as part of life in our community for the benefit of all consumers of electricity from LIPA across Long Island.

Over 20 years ago, the then Governor, our State government and LIPA made a promise to the taxpayers, our school district, other local municipalities and communities. They and others promised that the value of the power plants, including the Northport Power Plant, would not be reduced as long as the taxing authorities did not abusively increase the tax assessments. The taxpayers, the school district and others relied on the promise and for more than a decade, everyone lived up to the bargain that was reached. As I understand it, the taxes on the Northport Power Plant have never been increased since, even though improvements were made to the facilities!

Now LIPA and National Grid (the owner of the Northport Power Plant) are trying to reduce the assessment on the plant by 90%. If this effort by LIPA were to succeed and the taxes reduced by 90% or even 50%, my neighbors and I would suddenly face significant **local property tax increases in the mid to high-double digits into the future**. This is not acceptable! Long Island is already an expensive place to live and raise a family, but these unprecedented tax increases could force many of us out of our homes, including those of us on fixed incomes; negatively impact the values of our properties; and, change the face of our community forever. Adding insult to injury, the devastation to our community would come with little to no savings to the ratepayers as admitted by the Chief Executive Officer of LIPA, Thomas Falcone, when he recently acknowledged that most ratepayers would see decreases of a few dollars in their electric bills if the assessments of the plants were reduced! Assemblyman, we have asked the Governor, if the taxpayers, ratepayers, and their communities do not benefit from LIPA's actions, who does? – **Not the residents and most definitely, not our schools.**

The consequences that LIPA's and National Grid's actions will have on our school district and its ability to maintain the quality of education our students receive and deserve is likewise extremely concerning to me as a resident of the Northport-East Northport School District. You know that the success of our school system is the success of our community. The schools help our children reach their goals, attend colleges, provide job training while allowing them to stay here in New York to build their lives and raise families. Tax revenue received from the Northport Power Plant currently makes up 38% of our school district budget – about \$53 million annually. Should the value of the plant be reduced significantly, our school district will be faced with two options – raise taxes dramatically or decimate our school district and the future educational prospects of

children in our community – an outcome that benefits no one – not the students or our community as a whole. These are not viable options to me, my neighbors or our community.

Our school district has operated within the 2% tax-cap and we as taxpayers appreciate your efforts, along with the Governor, to help curb rising residential property taxes not only here on Long Island, but across the State. The power plant tax matter has been tied up in the courts for years, with multiple lawsuits and players. However, we believe that the best solution to this issue needs to come from our elected leaders in Albany, including the Governor.

LIPA must be stopped before it is too late. We are seeking your assistance in calling upon the Governor to provide immediate assistance in Albany. Action by the Governor's office can stop the imminent harm to us as taxpayers, to our schools, our students, and the community at large.

LIPA is breaking the promise it and the State made to our community. This community needs immediate assistance from the Governor and our other elected officials in Albany! A solution must be achieved for our community before it is too late. Solutions can come in the form of additional aid for schools facing this incredible challenge of significantly reduced tax revenue and the passage of new laws to provide a glide path for our schools and community so that we, the residents are not crippled by an exorbitant increase to our local taxes. In addition, we ask that the Governor direct LIPA to be realistic in any proposed settlement so that our community is not devastated. With your help, we can convince the Governor that he can help stave off the imminent harm to us as taxpayers, to our schools, thousands of students, and the tens of thousands of people in our community at large.

Assemblyman – we greatly appreciate your help and support in this fight to date, but now we need intervention to come from the Governor's office without further delay! Please help us continue the fight!

Sincerely,