

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT OLIVE OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED STATE BUDGET FOR THE 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR AND REQUESTING THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO RESTORE PROGRAM FUNDING SUFFICIENT TO HONOR STATE STATUTES AND THEIR STATED COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF IN ALL NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2008 Governor Jon S. Corzine presented his FY2009 Budget Proposal ("Proposal") to a Joint Session of the New Jersey State Legislature, which Proposal shall be sent to the Legislature, which must pass a balanced budget by the start of the State's next Fiscal Year, which begins on July 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Proposal which represents what the Governor described as, "...many unpleasant choices..." calls for the elimination of two Department of State Government: The Department of Agriculture and Personnel and the State Commerce Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Proposal additionally requires all other Departments of State Government to absorb funding cuts and asks for sacrifice in a number of other areas, including direct property tax relief, hospital aid, higher education assistance and Medicaid, and proposes inordinately deep cuts in municipal property tax relief funding; and

WHEREAS, municipal officials have managed to accomplish a great deal of local undertaking with minimum funding for so long that State Budget-makers appear to think that municipalities can continue to function with little to no funding whatsoever; and

WHEREAS, the Proposal calls for the reduction of municipal property tax relief by \$189.6 Million Dollars; and

WHEREAS, for municipalities with a population of less than 5,000 there will be no Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid ("CMPTRA") funding this year; and

WHEREAS, for municipalities with a population between 5,000 and 10,000 CMPTRA funding will be limited to one-half of the amount received in the State's 2006-2007 budget; and

WHEREAS, the CMPTRA funds in the amount of \$32.6 Million Dollars, which were distributed to municipalities last year as 2008 Municipal Property Tax Assistance, has been eliminated; and

WHEREAS, all municipalities will receive level Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief Funding, despite the State Law that "requires" annual inflationary adjustments of this (and CMPTRA) funding; and

WHEREAS, last year, municipal efficiency was promoted by the allocation of funds in the amount of \$34.8 Million Dollars, however in the Proposal, such funding has been eliminated; and

WHEREAS, last year's \$32 Million Dollars in funding for Municipal Homeland Security has been eliminated; Special Municipal Aid funding has been cut from \$153 Million Dollars, representing a loss of \$7.6 Million Dollars; Extraordinary Aid funding has been reduced from \$34 Million Dollars to \$32.3 Million Dollars, representing a loss of \$1.7 Million Dollars; and the \$8 Million Dollars in Regional Efficiency Aid Program will not be funded this year; and

WHEREAS, beyond these cuts, certain municipalities served by the State Police will be asked to contribute \$20 Million Dollars to the State's General Fund, and Homestead Rebates for Homeowners will be reduced by \$257 Million Dollars for homeowners and \$124 Million Dollars for renters; and

WHEREAS, such deep reduction in crucial budgetary items place an undue burden upon municipalities seeking to provide essential community service to uphold the health, safety and welfare of their citizens with little to no State funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, that it calls upon its elected representatives of Trenton, Senator Anthony R. Bucco and Assembly Members Michael Patrick Carroll and Richard A. Merkt to work with their colleagues in the New Jersey Legislature and with the Governor to take affirmative action to restore program funding sufficient to honor state statutes and their stated commitment to the cause of property tax relief in all New Jersey municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Jon S. Corzine, Acting State Treasurer R. David Rousseau, Senate President Richard J. Codey, Senate Minority Leader Thomas H. Kean, Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts, Assembly Minority Leader Alex DeCroce, the Chairs and Members of the Senate and Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committees, our own Senator Anthony R. Bucco and Assembly members Michael Patrick Carroll and Richard A. Merkt and to the Municipal Clerks of each of the municipalities in Morris County for distribution to the various Mayors and Governing Bodies and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township of Mount Olive and to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT OLIVE

Raymond T. Perkins, Council President

I hereby certify the above to be a true and exact copy of a resolution duly passed and adopted by the Mount Olive Township Council on

Lisa Lashway, Township Clerk