

Your Name

Street Address
City, State, Zip Code

Date

Legislator's Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip Code

Dear ---,

The overwhelming and unjust property tax hikes on the barrier island of Toms River must end! As a taxpayer in the Ocean Beach section of Toms River, I urge you to support Senator Joseph Kyrillos' bill, SJR13, that would address the problem of the confusing peninsula communities by establishing a Municipal Alignment, Reorganization and Consolidation Commission, to reduce the number of municipal governments and make recommendations on which towns' services could best be streamlined.

As a result of a recent property tax revaluation, most homeowners on the barrier island have seen at least a 50% increase in their taxes, with some experiencing a 100% increase. Toms River is using this area, mostly made up of non-voting homeowners, as a cash cow to subsidize the mainland properties. Please support Sen. Kyrillos' bill to prevent such drastic tax increases, and to encourage other NJ legislators to pass the bill to create a single barrier island community. As a major tourist destination and coastal area, we have very specific and unique needs as compared to the mainland, yet those needs are continually ignored by Toms River. We need to secede from the township, combine communities, and leverage shared services, which should lower our property taxes. Help us stop the shakedown by Toms River, and finally get the services that we deserve at an affordable and reasonable tax rate.

Most of the communities on the barrier island were originally created as an affordable vacation destination for the middle class. Many homes are passed down from generation to generation, allowing families to continue to enjoy their modest getaways. The perception that everyone on the island is a millionaire is incorrect. A large percentage of residents are on a fixed income, and the tough economy has affected us all. Many seniors have retired here due to lower living expenses and a milder climate. As a result of the drastic tax increases, families are being forced to sell or face foreclosure, and seniors may have to move out of state, as they can no longer afford to live here. Toms River is taking advantage of area residents via taxation without representation, which is imposing an enormous burden on these small communities.

This very important issue should be escalated to the legislature, which is constitutionally responsible for tax policy. The barrier island taxpayers cannot wait any longer. We need your help to get this bill passed, which will put an end to the property tax insanity.

Sincerely,

Your Name