

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 15, 2024

Hon. Philip D. Murphy
Governor
225 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Senate President Nick Scutari
125 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin
125 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy, Senate President Scutari, and Speaker Coughlin:

We, the undersigned faith, community, labor, and advocacy organizations, urge you to reinstate the Corporate Business Tax surcharge (CBT) to ensure working families in New Jersey can access the vital programming and services we rely on to survive. Middle, working-class, and low-wage New Jersey families have been facing skyrocketing inflation for years, and struggle every day to pay rent and utilities, put food on the table, and afford childcare and now face [a 15% fare hike on NJTransit, with Turnpike toll hikes and gas tax increases likely to follow.](#)

The best way to ensure our state has the revenue it needs is *not* through increasing regressive taxes on the already overburdened poor and working class. Wealthy corporations should continue to pay the corporate surcharge so we can fund programs and services like NJ Transit. The choice to give wealthy corporations a tax break while raising the cost of commuting for working families is a policy choice and a policy failure. It is a mistake to shift the burden onto low and middle-income families who are still struggling to afford the basics in order to cut taxes on wealthy corporations. We refuse to fight each other for scraps, [while wealthy corporations like Amazon report vast profits as recently as the last quarter of 2023.](#)

We are also deeply concerned at the prospect of increasing the sales tax in New Jersey. This should be a non-starter without asking wealthy corporations and individuals to pay what they owe. If the state is going to tax low wage workers through fare increases and sales tax increases, we cannot let big multinational corporations and wealthy individuals get a tax cut at the same time. According to a recent report published by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, [the poor contribute 5.7 percent of their family income to sales tax in comparison to the top 1% who pay only 0.9% of their income.](#) But wealthy corporations can afford the corporate surcharge; it would generate more than \$1 billion in revenue, and businesses have already been paying it for years -- [their profits increased dramatically even when they paid the corporate surcharge.](#)

When wealthy corporations like Amazon are allowed to hoard their wealth instead of paying what they owe in taxes, New Jersey has fewer public funds to invest directly into our communities. Our [transit system remains unreliable](#), [schools continue to crumble](#), [thousands of New Jersey residents remain unhoused](#), and our communities [combat poisoned air](#) and water.

Since Spring 2023, we have had thousands of conversations with train and bus riders, [taken collective action in district offices and outside the Statehouse](#), and met with legislators to extend the corporate surcharge to hold corporations responsible to the communities and workers that make their operations possible.

We ask that you reinstate the corporate surcharge to ensure resources are put directly back into our communities so all of our families can thrive.

Sincerely,

Action Together New Jersey
American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey
American Friends Service Committee – New Jersey Immigrant Rights Program
Black Lives Matter Paterson
Blue Wave New Jersey
Clean Water Action
Communications Workers of America, District 1
Empower New Jersey
Fair Share Housing Center
Faith in New Jersey
First Friends of New York and New Jersey
Garden State Equality
Hudson County Complete Streets
Indivisible Cranbury
Jolt New Jersey
Latino Action Network
League of Women Voters of New Jersey
Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry NJ
Make the Road New Jersey
National Action Network South Jersey Chapter
Newark Communities for Accountable Policing
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Food Democracy Collaborative
New Jersey Harm Reduction Coalition
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Jersey Poor People's Campaign
New Jersey Working Families Party
New Jersey 11th for Change
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
New Labor

Our Children Our Schools
Our Revolution
Paterson Education Fund
Planned Parenthood Action Fund of NJ
Rutgers AAUP-AFT
Save Our Schools New Jersey
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Unitarian Universalist FaithAction New Jersey
Urban Agriculture Cooperative
Volunteer Lawyers for Justice
Waterspirit
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

CC: New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Paul A. Sarlo, Deputy Majority Leader; Chair
The Honorable Linda R. Greenstein, Assistant Majority Leader; Vice-Chair
The Honorable M. Teresa Ruiz, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Carmen F. Amato
The Honorable Renee C. Burgess
The Honorable John J. Burzichelli
The Honorable Gordon M. Johnson, Assistant Majority Leader
The Honorable Nilsa Cruz-Perez
The Honorable Patrick J. Diegnan
The Honorable Andrew Zwicker, PhD
The Honorable Declan J. O'Scanlon, Republican Budget Officer
The Honorable Douglas J. Steinhardt
The Honorable Michael L. Testa, Republican Whip

New Jersey General Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Eliana Pintor Marin, Budget Chair
The Honorable Benjie E. Wimberly, Speaker Pro Tempore; Vice-Chair
The Honorable Carol A. Murphy, Majority Whip
The Honorable Gary S. Schaer, Policy Chair
The Honorable Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, Constituent Outreach Chair
The Honorable Herb Conaway, Jr., M.D., Deputy Speaker
The Honorable Nancy F. Munoz, Minority Budget Officer
The Honorable Aura K. Dunn, Assistant Minority Whip
The Honorable Brian E. Rumpf, Minority Parliamentarian
The Honorable Gerry Scharfenberger, PhD, Minority Policy Chair
The Honorable Al Barlas
The Honorable Roy Freiman, Deputy Majority Leader
The Honorable Ellen J. Park, Parliamentarian
The Honorable Gabriel Rodriguez
The Honorable Michael Venezia