



**STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

Jackie Walorski
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COMMITTEES:
Family, Children & Human Affairs
Public Policy

July 9, 2007

The Honorable Patrick Bauer
Speaker of the House
State House Room 3-2
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Speaker Bauer,

Please accept this letter in the spirit which it is intended, which is on behalf of Hoosier taxpayers in regard to the current property tax crisis. I know I am not alone in expressing frustration at the current situation in the State of Indiana and the extremely high increases in property tax bills around the State.

My district in Elkhart County saw an average increase of 25% with thousands receiving much more of an increase. That is simply wrong. I cannot justify a 25% increase for any reason, let alone all of the excuses we have heard between mandated reassessment, trending, inventory shift, etc. To me, it is a symptom of a greater problem which is our system of taxation in this State is broken and quite archaic.

Although I have not been in the Legislature as long as you, I already realize that this issue is very solvable; it is a matter of both parties having the political will to do so. Therefore, I am asking for you, as our leader, to exert the political "will" and demonstrate to the working people of this State that we can and will be problem solvers. I respectfully ask that you consider the following:

1. Realize that we are in a crisis in many parts of the State not only because of the actions taken this past session, but the lack of action for the past decades in regards to property taxes. We have allowed a system to develop where Hoosiers, as individuals, no longer own their property, the government owns it. If hard working people cannot pay an exponential increase in their taxes, they lose that property they thought was their own. This is absolutely wrong.

2. Reconvene the Legislative Council this week, and re-assign the property tax issue to a panel of experts from IU, Purdue, and representatives of the many think tanks that have studied this issue. Do not allow the same people to sit around and simply "tweak" this broken system, as they have in the past. There are already many options out there that have data to support them, including the elimination of property taxes. Present those options to the entire legislative body by late fall and allow us to take those solutions to the people and have "hearings" on real solutions not on the continual problem.

3. You, as Speaker of the House, pledge to the people of this State that ONLY those real substantive, long term, tax reforms will be heard and voted on in January when we reconvene. I, as a mere member of the House, do not have the power to control the flow of bills but you, as Speaker, do have that power and I ask you to exert that power.

I appreciate the work that you do and the leadership position that you have, but I am asking that we muster every ounce of political will within us and solve this problem. I am not interested in placing blame or simply shifting taxes and levies from entity to entity every two years. I stand ready and willing to assist in this task.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Walorski".

Jackie Walorski
State Representative

JW:RC

cc: President Pro-Tem David Long
Minority Leader Richard Young
Minority Leader Brian Bosma
Governor Mitch Daniels