



January 20, 2023

The Honorable Governor Philip D. Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Governor Murphy,

On behalf of the For The Many NJ coalition, we, the undersigned, are writing to appeal for the extension of the corporate business surtax as part of the FY 2024 state budget.

As we enter a budget season with lower revenues and a potential recession on the horizon, this is exactly the wrong time to be giving the most profitable corporations a \$600 million tax cut. Such a gift for corporations and their shareholders takes away resources from our schools and infrastructure and undermines funding for areas that promote opportunity for all: affordable housing, quality health care, reliable mass transit, and clean energy.

We say enough is enough. The Governor was correct in his State of the State: deep tax cuts for corporations in hope of generating economic growth is a failed policy in other states, just as it was here in New Jersey during the Christie administration.

We urge you to extend this Corporate Millionaire's Tax and require the big businesses making record profits in New Jersey to pay what they owe so we can fund our schools, transportation, and social services.

Now is the time for more revenue, not less. Revenue projections already show a dip in collections in 2023, while many economists forecast a recession. The pandemic has taught us that government support helps ease the harm of even serious recessions, while cutbacks and austerity only deepen the pain for ordinary New Jerseyans.

The programs that support prosperity like schools and affordable housing need funding. The state has built a robust set of achievements over the last few years – a

full pension payment, expanded and fairer school funding, preschool expansion, working family tax credits, and affordable housing. Yet these investments cannot continue at this level without sufficient and sustainable funding. Corporate tax cuts will only make preserving these programs more difficult, especially with federal pandemic assistance expiring.

Instead of spending \$600 million on corporate tax cuts, New Jersey could pay for:

- Preschool for 37,000 more 3- and 4-year-olds,
- 5,000 units of affordable housing,
- 1,500 electric school buses,
- Quadrupling the Child Tax Credit, or
- Doubling the state's college tuition assistance.

The wealthiest 2 percent of businesses should be paying more, not getting a tax cut when everyday New Jerseyans are struggling. We keep hearing about kitchen-table issues and middle-class New Jerseyans. How will corporate tax cuts help them? If we intend to invest in the programs we know make New Jersey an engine of economic growth and opportunity, the wealthy few must pay what they owe.

Cutting their taxes weakens our fiscal strength while doing nothing to strengthen our communities.

When our state makes millionaire corporations pay us what they truly owe in taxes, New Jersey working people, families, and communities will have what they need to overcome challenges and truly create opportunity for all.

Signed,
Members of the For The Many Coalition

ACLU of New Jersey
32BJ SEIU
BlueWaveNJ
Clean Water Action
CWA District 1
Environment New Jersey
Healthy Schools Now, NJ
Housing and Community Development Network of NJ
Jersey Renews Coalition
Latino Action Network
League of Women Voters of New Jersey
Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy NJ
Make the Road New Jersey
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Education Association
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
New Jersey Policy Perspective
NJ 11th For Change
NJ Work Environment Council
NJWFP
Our Children/Our Schools
Our Revolution New Jersey
Save Our Schools NJ
State Revenue Alliance
Unidad Latina en Acción NJ
Voters of Tomorrow New Jersey
Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center

For The Many NJ is a statewide coalition of more than 30 organizations working to expand funding for essential services and improve budget practices to meet current and future needs, especially for communities that have been historically left behind.