

STATE REP. JEFF SPIEGELMAN SAYS PROPOSED “FLUSH TAX” WILL DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACT WORKING DELAWAREANS

March 7, 2014

Dear Editor,

Without question, it feels like déjà vu.

Stop me if you have heard this one – another new tax is being proposed by the Markell administration. Like many of my constituents who have contacted me about this matter, I am more than frustrated with the idea that we are again hitting the “tax button” as the way to address an issue in our state. It’s time to think outside the box.

I certainly support the notion of improving water quality in Delaware. However, heaping another tax on our citizens, corporate partners, and farmers is not the way to do it. Like the governor’s proposed 10-cent gasoline tax, his “flush tax” will only disproportionately impact working Delawareans, small business owners, and our farming communities.

We have to do a better job of finding solutions to our problems than to automatically consider putting it on the backs of Delaware citizens. When it comes to improving water quality, it was even suggested at the March 4th press conference by a longtime Delaware waterman that our waterways have actually significantly improved over the years. So, if the commitment to clean water for future generations does still need to be made at the state level, why not consider committing future surplus revenues instead of levying a new tax while Delawareans are struggling during this sluggish economic recovery?

It’s also worth noting a comment that was made by the conservation chairman for the Delaware Audubon Society during the coverage of this story. Dave Carter questioned why more money was being sought through this tax without first addressing the number of expired discharge permits under the federal program regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into the waters. Would this measure not help clean our waterways without a new tax on farms, businesses, and citizens?

Both examples show that there are other ways to go about addressing this issue instead of, once again, attempting to tax our way to a solution.

A discussion allowing for other thoughtful ideas on how to clean our waterways and improve stormwater runoff is an approach I am hoping the governor will consider. Now is not the time to impose another tax, “flush” or otherwise.

Sincerely,



Jeff Spiegelman
State Representative
11th District