



LEGISLATIVE VIEWPOINT

**New Jersey State League
of Municipalities**

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May 27, 2009

Re: A-1645/S-770

The Hon. Jon Corzine
Governor, State of New Jersey
State House, PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Corzine,

On behalf of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities I write to urge your veto of A-1645/S-770, which requires the appointment of a qualified purchasing agent. Quite simply and undeniably, A-1645/S-770 is an unfunded state mandate on certain local units.

As you know, throughout the recent budget process, the League has called on the State to work with the League to identify state mandates, and provide mandates relief for our property taxpayers. It is therefore most regrettable that while we call for mandates relief, the Legislature approves an unfunded state mandate. In this austere environment, A-1645/S-770 should be vetoed since it will be paid for by our taxpayers.

The League of Municipalities supports professionalism in all aspects of municipal operations. To that end, the League is supportive of continuing education courses and, in fact, facilitates training seminars in coordination with the Department of Community Affairs as a means for purchasing agents to stay relevant of new laws and statutes affecting purchasing functions. We fail to see why municipalities, currently operating an efficient, effective and economical procurement system, should absorb this unfunded mandate. This new mandate does not provide a new benefit for the community or its taxpayers.

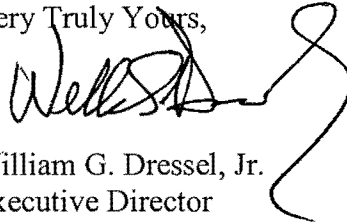
The added burden of certification, training, increased spending by governmental agencies, increased salary requirements for purchasing agents (that are certain to follow) and replacing a flexibility now provided to local units with a mandate, remain most difficult for municipalities. It is unwise and unnecessary to impose the dictates of this

legislation on property taxpayers, most especially now. It is too much to absorb during these times of economic contraction.

Additionally, it is our opinion that the Department of Community Affairs, the agency charged with implementation should this bill be enacted, is already short staffed and may suffer further employee reductions due to retirements, continuing staff reductions and budget limitations, expressed concerns (similar to the League's) in a letter to the sponsors.

Please veto A-1645/S-770.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. G. Dressel, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director