

January 2010

Dear Legislators:

As your constituent, I am sending you this letter to express my vehement opposition to the Governor's proposed plan to cut state aid to the Pine Bush Central School District. These proposed cuts will be devastating to our school district and the community it serves—causing cuts in the areas of personnel, transportation, maintenance, as well as programs and services to our students. Our \$5.6 million cut in school aid will cripple our instructional program. The Governor's arbitrary formulas give no consideration for the current economic crisis that all taxpayers are suffering.

These deep cuts will do irreparable harm to our children who are the neediest by increasing class size, reducing essential academic interventions, as well as causing a disruption to classroom instruction through teacher layoffs and elimination of core programs. Additionally, high school electives such as college-level courses, summer academy programs, music, art, athletics and extracurricular activities would be severely impacted or eliminated.

Currently, in the Pine Bush communities, the unemployment rates are high and local property taxpayers are struggling just to make ends meet. We are an aid-dependent district with little or no industry to help share the tax burden. We ask that Governor Paterson and the legislators find other means to reduce the State's deficit. Please understand that the education of our children must remain the number one priority.

As a taxpayer and voter within one of the seven towns and three counties that make up the Pine Bush Central School District, I implore you to preserve the education of our children. *They are our future!*

Sincerely,