



BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
45 Mount Rock Road
Newville, PA 17241-9466
(717) 776-2412

Dear Legislators:

We ask you to oppose the elimination of property tax as presently proposed for the following reasons:

1. Contrary to what the general public believes, the bill does not completely eliminate property taxes. School Districts will still collect property taxes to fund debt service and Counties and Townships will still fund a significant portion of their operating expenses from property taxes.
2. The cost of collecting taxes will not change nor will the cost of operating the County Assessment Office meaning a bigger portion of the tax dollars will go to supporting the bureaucracy.
3. It will be necessary to establish a new distribution system at the State level, again meaning more money being diverted from the education of our children.
4. As presently proposed, property taxes will be eliminated on July 1, 2017 but the State will have collected no taxes to replace those monies. The State is already forecasting a 3 billion dollar deficit for current operations so what will be the source of money replacing the property tax.
5. Commercial and business properties will no longer provide funds to support School Districts in their operational areas. Thus industrial development along the Rt. 81 corridor will not support local school districts but instead wealthier areas of the state.
6. There is no distribution formula in place and any that have been proposed provide no flexibility for unforeseen expenses-i.e. the mold problems several Districts in our area experienced this past year.
7. Under SB76, six (6) counties throughout the state will receive over 50% of the appropriated tax increases in PIT and Sales Tax. Five (5) counties in the southeast and Alleghany County. Cumberland County tax payers will be funding those counties distribution as the tax shift in Cumberland County exceeds the current value of monies being collected via school property taxes. Our tax payers as a county will be paying more under the plan and the increased monies will not even stay in Cumberland County.

Please consider these concerns as discussions on elimination of school property tax proceed.

Sincerely,

Big Spring Board of School Directors