

**The Rev. Canon John C. Belmont
8 Fairway Dr.
Hopewell, New Jersey 08525**

September 1, 2015

The Honorable Shirley K. Turner
1230 Parkway Ave.
Suite 103
Ewing Twp. NJ 08628

Dear Senator Turner:

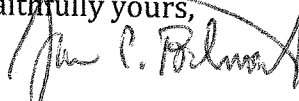
I retired in July of 2013 as the pastor of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Pennington, NJ after 37 years. My wife and I live in Hopewell Township and have been residence of the Hopewell Valley for almost 40 years. While living on Pennington Borough, I was a member of both the Planning and Zoning Boards in the 1980's. When I retired, I was asked to become a member of the Planning Board of Hopewell Township of which I am currently a member.

I write to you because as a resident of Mercer County, I have become increasing concerned over the issue of affordable housing and the way that it is currently being handled in the State. To be blunt, the whole process has become a dysfunctional mess! We are in the midst of a statewide crisis of which I trust you are aware. I am told by the professionals involved in the planning process as well as private citizens who have appeared before our planning board that it is time for our legislative leaders to intervene and bring some reason to the process.

I am and always have been in favor of each municipality in our State to make provision for affordable housing, but the methodology by which the current process is being carried out is far too complex and confusing and the numbers that "the experts" are calculating are staggering and demoralizing for those of us trying to make provisions for affordable housing given the unique nature of the communities we serve. My fear is that the current circumstances really do not serve those of modest means, but rather rich land speculators and wealthy developers! The current timelines being mandated by the court system is totally unworkable and will lead to disastrous consequences for many of the communities our State.

My hope is that the legislative bodies of our State would be able to work together in a timely manner to create a process that will allow for reasonable growth, provide a plan for affordable housing while preserving the precious open space of the Garden State.

Faithfully yours,



The Rev. Canon John C. Belmont

Also sent to:
Reed Gusciora
Elizabeth Muoio

District 15

Senate



(D)
Senator
Shirley K. Turner

BORN: July 3
EDUCATION: B.S. Trenton State College (Education), M.A. Rider College (Guidance and Counseling), Rutgers University (Postgraduate Studies/Education)
OCCUPATION: Legislator
PUBLIC/PARTY SERVICE: Mercer County Board of Freeholders 1983-86, Vice President 1986; Township of Lawrence Zoning Board 1979-83; Mercer County Improvement Authority 1979-81; N.J. State Council on the Arts 1977-81
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Senate 1998-present, President Pro Tempore 2004-09, Democratic President Pro Tempore 2002-03; General Assembly 1994-98, Associate Minority Leader 1996-98
COMMITTEES: Education - *Vice-Chair*; State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation - *Vice-Chair*; Joint Committee on Economic Justice and Equal Employment Opp

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Assembly



(D)
Assemblyman
Reed Gusciora

BORN: March 27, 1960
EDUCATION: B.A. The Catholic University of America (Politics/International Relations), J.D. Seton Hall University School of Law
OCCUPATION: Attorney
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 1996-present, Deputy Majority Leader 2008-present, Assistant Majority Leader 2006-07, Assistant Minority Leader 1998-2001
COMMITTEES: Regulatory Oversight - *Chair*; Financial Institutions and Insurance

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EDUCATION: B.A. Wesleyan University (History), J.D. Georgetown University
OCCUPATION: Director of Economic Development, Mercer County
PUBLIC/PARTY SERVICE: Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders 2001-2008; Pennington Borough Council 1997-2002
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: General Assembly 2015-present
COMMITTEES: Regulated Professions; Women and Children

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Assemblywoman
Elizabeth Maher Mudio