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STEVE HAWLEY
Assistant Minority Leader
Assemblyman 139th District
Genesee, Orleans, and Monroe Counties

August 1, 2014

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Office of the Governor
Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12222

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I would like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage you to consider eliminating the disastrous Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).

As you are aware, NYS will be paid over \$3 billion dollars as a result of a landmark settlement between the French Bank BNP Paribas and regulators at the State and Federal level due to their repeated violations of U.S. laws and sanctions. This settlement should be invested back into NY State's local schools: first to eliminate the remaining \$1 billion in the GEA for good, and the remaining money to be used toward scheduled school aid increases. More state aid to school districts is critical to keeping our local property taxes down-especially low wealth districts.

I have recently met with a number of School Superintendents to discuss the inequities of aid to rural and low-wealth school districts. These School Districts operate in a fiscally conservative and efficient fashion and their records are living proof of this. I believe each child should have the same opportunities regardless of their family's geographic location. As you know, education is the key to the success for all children and I am sure you would agree, each child in New York State should receive an equal education.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Hawley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEVE HAWLEY
Member of Assembly

SMH:esb