

**CAPITOL OFFICE**

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**MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**T.J. Berry**  
State Representative  
District 38

September 4, 2013

Dear Governor Nixon,

In light of last week’s opinion from Attorney General Chris Koster regarding the potential retroactive application of the income tax cut contained in HB 253, as well the other issues with the bill you have pointed out, I urge you to call the legislature into an extraordinary session to run concurrently with the Veto Session that is scheduled to begin Wednesday, Sept. 11.

During the course of this interim, the tone of the discussion between your office and the legislature on HB 253 has been far too combative in nature. It is time for that to change as we should do our best to work together in the spirit of cooperation that the people of Missouri expect from their elected officials. I truly believe Missourians want to see us reach some sort of compromise on this important issue and that we should do all we can to find the common ground necessary to make a tax cut for working Missourians a reality.

In passing the bill, the General Assembly had the simple but important purpose of making out state more competitive and providing Missourians with the first income tax cut in nearly a century. While you have made it clear that you have issues with the bill, you have not been clear as to whether you agree with us that it is a good idea to allow Missouri taxpayers to keep more of their hard-earned dollars.

If the problems you have highlighted with the bill are your only objections, I ask you to release the money you are withholding from education, and give us an opportunity to fix the errors you believe exist sooner rather than later. I assure you that, if you call the legislature into extraordinary session, we will have a clean tax cut bill on your desk in a matter of days and at a minimal cost to taxpayers. I would hope this is an opportunity you will carefully consider as you look at what is in the best interests of Missouri citizens and businesses both now and in the years to come.

I know you are well aware of the businesses that are fleeing our state for greener pastures where the tax burden is lower and the business climate is more favorable. If we are going to stop the hemorrhaging of family-supporting jobs and position Missouri for the kind of economic and job growth we will need to ensure future prosperity, we must act now. I urge you to stand with us in supporting this historic tax cut because doing nothing has a clear cost so that we do not fall farther behind the states around us that have seen the undeniable connection between a lowered tax burden and explosive economic growth.

Sincerely,

T.J. Berry  
State Representative – District 38  
Missouri House of Representatives