

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR KIDS: PLEASE OPPOSE THE LCI FREEZE!

January 24, 2010

The Honorable Janet Howell
Senate of Virginia
P.O. Box 396
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Senator Howell:

I write to you today as a very concerned Fairfax County schools parent and resident of the Commonwealth. Specifically, I am writing to urge you to oppose the proposed freeze to the Local Composite Index (or LCI) and to support providing the County with additional revenue/tax authority that can be used for school funding.

In my opinion, an LCI freeze would deeply wound our county's schools and spell disaster for the Commonwealth's economy. For our schools, the freeze would lead directly to major funding cuts and cause class sizes – which are already too high at my child's school – to increase further. Large class sizes make our teachers' jobs harder, cause discipline and health and safety issues, and may impact test scores. For our economy, an LCI freeze means erosion in the quality of our schools and makes our community less desirable to companies seeking to relocate. Any business that Fairfax County loses to Maryland or the District of Columbia deprives the Commonwealth of new sources of revenue. Truly, an LCI freeze hurts us all.

I also believe that Fairfax County should have the right to approve additional revenue raising measures on its own, especially given the current economic crisis. Most other counties in this region already have separate tax/revenue authority and have used it to protect and enhance their education systems. I cannot understand why the Commonwealth would not grant Fairfax County that same authority.

Please protect Fairfax County's schools and the Commonwealth's economy. Please oppose the LCI freeze and support a grant of tax/revenue authority for Fairfax County.

Sincerely,