



**State of New Jersey**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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**CHRIS CHRISTIE**  
Governor

10-8-13 cc:Admin  
done sj

OCT - 8 2013

September 12, 2013

Ms. Lisa M Lashway  
Township of Mount Olive  
PO Box 450  
Budd Lake, New Jersey 07828-0450

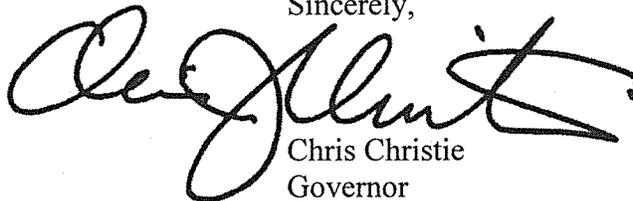
Dear Ms. Lashway:

Thank you for writing to express your support for Assembly Bill No. 1857, which would provide that the President of the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey serve as a member of the Government Records Council. I appreciate hearing from you on this issue.

As you may know, I vetoed this bill on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Under current law, there are five seats on the Government Records Council. One seat is reserved for the Commissioner of Community Affairs and another is reserved for the Commissioner of Education, while the remaining three seats are reserved for "public members," or individuals who are not government employees. This arrangement reflects a policy that government transparency is best preserved if government employees are not permitted to dominate the Government Records Council through a majority, and I agree with that principle. Because this bill would require the removal of one of the "public members" to accommodate the representative from the Municipal Clerks Association, it would disturb that balance in a way that could inadvertently undermine transparency and public access to government records. That result would be inconsistent with the purpose of the Open Public Records Act and the mission of the Government Records Council to make government records more accessible to all New Jerseyans.

While I understand that we are on differing sides of this issue, I hope you understand the prudence of my decision. Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Chris Christie  
Governor