



MICHAEL J. NORRIS
Assemblyman 144th District

THE ASSEMBLY
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April 8, 2019

Honorable Michael R. Schmidt, Nominee Commissioner
New York State Department of Taxation and Finance
State Campus Building 9
Albany, New York 12227

Dear Commissioner Nominee Schmidt:

On behalf of the constituents of the 144th Assembly District – and all taxpayers across our great state – I am writing in hopes that the Department of Taxation and Finance will produce a streamlined process for those taxpayers who will need to, or would like to, switch from receiving a STAR exemption to the STAR credit.

As you are aware, changes to the STAR exemption in the 2019-20 State Budget would prevent taxpayers from obtaining any growth in their savings over time, and new income guidelines would prevent some taxpayers from being able to continue seeing savings in the program they are currently enrolled in.

I appreciate the cooperation and help your department has already provided us in understanding that taxpayers must first denounce their STAR exemption by mail before they can enroll in the STAR credit program on your website. I am deeply concerned that this process is overly complicated and will result in many taxpayers not receiving the maximum savings they would be entitled to if they were properly enrolled. I am also very concerned that those without internet access, a computer, or a greater understanding of these matters will have an even harder time switching programs to maximize their tax savings.

It is my sincere hope that the Department is able to streamline this process while also helping to communicate these changes to taxpaying New Yorkers across our entire state. Perhaps it would also be a good and helpful public service to hold regional office hours or seminars to help assist those with technological or time constraints.

As New Yorkers are among the highest-taxed people in our nation, it is crucial that we do everything we can to assist them in obtaining the maximum savings for which they are eligible. While I did not support this budget proposal as I believed it was unnecessary and would create confusion with the public, it is now law and we must work together to ease the transition for the taxpayers who will be affected. Please know I am a willing partner toward this goal and look forward to hearing from you with more details about how the Department can assist New Yorkers to make the switch.

With the greatest respect, I thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Norris
Member of Assembly, 144th District