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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND
NORTHERN AFRICA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Andy Kim
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Booker and Kim:

New Jersey innovators, job creators, students, and working families consistently bear some of the highest tax burden and cost of living in the nation. In fact, New Jersey only receives 83 cents on the dollar it sends down to Washington, D.C.

When I first arrived in Congress in 2023, I made a promise to my constituents, colleagues, and party that if a tax bill came before me without an increase in the SALT Deduction, it would not have my support. It is imperative that our fellow New Jerseyans both send fewer tax dollars down to DC in the first place, as well as receive more in return.

In January 2024, the House passed the Tax Relief for American Workers and Families Act. Although I supported provisions in that bill, like the Child Tax Credit and R&D expensing, this bill did not raise the SALT Deduction, so I voted no. As the House started work on its reconciliation bill, I similarly made clear that if it did not include SALT relief, I would vote no.

We agree that New Jerseyans deserve tax relief as a matter of fundamental fairness. This is why I was pleased to see that the Budget Reconciliation bill, which the House Republican Conference sent to the Senate last month, would quadruple the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction and provide much-needed relief to every middle-class family in New Jersey. That is why I have worked with my colleagues and stood up to my own party for more than a year — to achieve the result the House agreed to last month.

I have been disappointed to see your broken promises on SALT have left our constituents without relief for years. In 2022, when Democrats had complete control in Washington, you both voted for the Inflation Reduction Act to become law, even after then-Majority Leader Chuck Schumer advanced a bill with no SALT relief. Then, last year, you missed yet another opportunity to deliver for our constituents when you both voted to advance the Tax Relief for American Workers and Families Act — the same bill I had opposed because it failed to increase the SALT deduction.

Now, we have another opportunity to deliver this much-needed relief to our constituents. Senate Majority Leader John Thune has indicated that the House-passed reconciliation bill, containing long-awaited SALT relief, will come to the Senate floor this summer. Again and again, Leader Schumer has sunk SALT; this time, I urge you to join me in delivering the SALT relief New Jersey needs and deserves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom H. Kean, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress