Donya G. Jordan

Auditor of Jasper County

16, 2009

Commissioner Tim Rushenberg
Indiana Department of Local Government Finance
100 North Senate Ave., Room N1058
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: Reductions in assessed valuation under IC 6-1.1-17-8.5

Per IC 6-1.1-17-8.5 reads, the Jasper County Auditor is requesting a variance from the maximum 2% withholding of assessed valuation allowed under IC 6-1.1-17-0.5.

IC 6-1.1-17-8.5 *The county auditor may appeal to the department of local government finance to reduce a taxing unit's assessed valuation by an amount that exceeds the limits set forth in section 0.5(e) of this chapter. The department of local government finance:*

(1) may require the county auditor to submit supporting information with the county auditor's appeal;

(2) shall consider the appeal at the time of the review required by subsection (a); and

(3) may approve, modify and approve, or reject the amount of the reduction sought in the appeal.

Specifically, in Jasper County, Marion Township Tax District, there was an issue with last year's personal property tax abatement for Iroquois BioEnergy Company. The Jasper County Council and Iroquois BioEnergy Company came to an agreement where in order not to have created a shortfall for 2007 pay 2009 the abatement will be deducted over the next few years until the full amount of the abatement is credited to the company. In order to not create a shortfall for the 2008 pay 2009 tax collection, the Jasper County Auditor is requesting to hold out an additional amount of 6,700,450 (Real Estate-626,500, Personal Property-6,073,950) in assessed valuation beside the two percent maximum.

I am requesting that the Department of Local Government Finance approve this request made under IC 6-1.1-17-8.5.

Please feel free to call with questions.

Regards,

Donya Jordan
Jasper County Auditor

115 W Washington Street . Suite 200 . Rensselaer, Indiana 47978
(219)866-4930 . Fax (219)866-4940

Donya G. Jordan

Auditor of Jasper County

March 16, 2009

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Indiana Department of Local Government Finance
100 North Senate Ave., Room N1058
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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Per IC 6-1.1-17-8.5 reads, the Jasper County Auditor is requesting a variance from the maximum 2% withholding of assessed valuation allowed under IC 6-1.1-17-0.5.

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(1) may require the county auditor to submit supporting information with the county auditor's appeal;

(2) shall consider the appeal at the time of the review required by subsection (a); and

(3) may approve, modify and approve, or reject the amount of the reduction sought in the appeal.

Specifically, in Jasper County, Kankakee Township Tax District, the assessed valuation of a particular taxpayer is increasing by approximately $370 million or 700%. This change is per the county assessor's responsibility to comply with market value-in-use as of the valuation date. The Jasper County Assessor expects this assessed value to be appealed. However, we do not expect the appeal to be resolved until well after the submission of net assessed values and other information to the Department of Local Government Finance as required establishing gross tax rates, PTRC and net tax rates. Given the possible deleterious impact of a successful appeal on local budgets and possible refunds, the Jasper County Auditor believes it to be prudent to withhold $350 million of this increase in assessed values from the tax roles in this particular taxing district.

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I am requesting that the Department of Local Government Finance approve this request made under IC 6-1.1-17-8.5. Enclosed are copies of the relevant property record cards demonstrating the change in assessed valuation from 2007 to 2008.

Please feel free to call with questions.

Regards,

Donya D. Jordan

Donya Jordan
Jasper County Auditor