



**STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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RULES AND LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON JOINT RULES
PUBLIC POLICY
ELECTIONS AND APPORTIONMENT

December 4, 2007

Cheryl Musgrave, Commissioner
Department of Local Government Finance
100 N. Senate Ave. N 1058
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Commissioner Musgrave:

Late last week, I learned that the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) may revoke its certification of LaPorte County's property tax assessments.

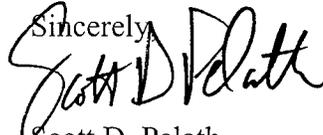
As in many other counties, our taxing units are borrowing millions in order to fund their operations. Since the interest payment constrictor is slowly tightening around my county's residents, any further, possible delay in revenue collections is a matter of significant concern.

So I may better understand why the DLGF would grant approval and then reverse itself, I would appreciate a prompt response to the following series of questions:

- 1) If the DLGF is not satisfied with LaPorte County's assessment data, why did it even consider certifying the assessments?
- 2) On what date did the DLGF surmise that existing data was unsatisfactory? What influenced this appraisal?
- 3) Throughout the DLFG certification process, does the Department weigh the interest costs of any delay? Are they considered in comparison to the aggregate, potential benefit of any further review?
- 4) Are any concerns about LaPorte County's assessments best left to existing appeals processes and legal remedies?
- 5) If the Department signed-off on an assessment, why should LaPorte County taxpayers bear the cost of a DLGF reversal?
- 6) In layman's terms, what additional data is the DLGF seeking? Why is available data deficient?

On August 1, I sent an inquiry to the DLGF regarding LaPorte County's assessments. On August 13, I received a cursory reply that did not directly answer any of my questions. My follow-up letter of August 23 received no reply.

This time, I would look forward to receiving a written reply to each of my questions by Friday, December 7. Thank you for your time and immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Pelath
State Representative
House District 9