A significant move is underway in the General Assembly to raise taxes in Rhode Island, including personal income taxes. Take action now! Contact your state senator and representative.

Key messages and contacts attached.

One would think that with our economy in tatters, higher taxes would be the last thing that lawmakers would want to contemplate. Several bills have been filed to make our already staggering tax burden even more staggering. Your help is needed. It’s all about jobs.

As you might expect, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce has mounted a campaign to work to defeat such short-sighted moves. However, legislators need to hear from actual constituents, as well as from the Chamber itself. That’s why a two-pronged strategy that involves one-on-one contact is necessary.

We are asking you to take a few minutes to contact as many legislators as you can and implore them to hold the line on taxes.

It goes without saying that our economy is extremely weak and fragile. Rhode Island is in a state of profound contraction. Only smart new strategies that result in job growth will get the state budget out of this mess.

Piling on new taxes to preserve the status quo simply won’t work in 2009.

We also worry that $500 million in federal stimulus monies will only mask the real problems. Did you know that 8,296 taxpaying families left Rhode Island between 2005 and 2006? Some analysts are calling that a “stampede.” The exodus resulted in $485 million in lost tax-generating income to Rhode Island’s budget coffers. Imagine if we could have kept those families? That revenue would have been like our own “home-grown” stimulus package. No public funds involved!

Please respond to this email with the results of your calls so that we can enter the information into our spreadsheets.

We have attached some key messages on this issue, along with links to each member of the General Assembly.

More to come…

www.providencechamber.com