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Gov. Christie: The Speaker's Shutdown Was Completely Unnecessary And Completely Avoidable

Saturday, July 1, 2017

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Gov. Christie: The Speaker's Shutdown Was Completely Unnecessary And ...


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Transcript:

Governor Christie: The Speaker's shutdown was completely unnecessary and completely avoidable. The fact is I was ready to sign a budget yesterday, I'm still willing to sign one today. Speaker Prieto, however, in his refusal to post the Horizon bill for a vote by his fellow elected Assembly members, has impacted the state of New Jersey and its residents unnecessarily. I want to again make it clear to the people of the state, I'm ready to sign a budget, and, quite frankly, I don't care which budget comes to me. As I said yesterday, the state budget can be brought in either form. If it's send in its \$35.7 billion form but the Horizon bill is not passed then I will line item veto out all spending that I believe is not appropriate. If they send me a budget at \$35.4 billion I will again take a look closely at that budget and decide what I want to do. If the Horizon bill comes in, I will sign the budget as it was passed by both budget committees in the Senate and the Assembly. But all of that is hypothetical, of course, because the Speaker who has 52 votes in his chamber on his best moment could muster 26 for a budget. So, I along with the people of the state of New Jersey are still waiting for a budget to be passed. Now, this is embarrassing and it's pointless. The fact is, I'll speak later today more about the Horizon bill itself, but many of his fellow democrats in the Assembly and certainly the folks who voted for this bill in the Senate, along with Republicans in both houses, deserve better from the Speaker than what's really nothing more than a temper tantrum. We have a number of Republicans and Democrats here in this building now and I'm glad to have you here. I understand that you would much rather be with your families today, with your friends, doing things for the Fourth of July weekend but you understand that we need to serve and we need to be here.

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Press Contact:

Brian Murray
609-777-2600



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Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000