



City of La Porte
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June 1, 2009

Tim Rushenberg
Indiana Department of Local Government Finance
100 N. Senate, N-1058B
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Rushenberg:

We want to thank you for your efforts to date. However, despite your best efforts, the tax processes in La Porte County appear frozen with no relief in sight.

We are now faced with a situation where the County Auditor has not, and may not, certify assessed valuations, and the Michigan Township Assessor is challenging the 07-08 assessments. Both the County Auditor and the Township Assessor are responding out of a core distrust of the work coming out of the County Assessor's Office. There is no reason to believe that this trust can be restored in any reasonable time frame.

While your plan to get this reassessment under control before addressing the weaknesses within La Porte County was both reasonable and responsible, it now appears to be undoable. We believe that La Porte County will remain in a quagmire of ineffective action until basic changes are made.

We know that you inherited this situation and that you have worked hard to resolve it. We are also mindful that substantive change at this time will inevitably result in a loss of time, which is harmful to all local taxing units. However, the road that we are now traveling has gotten us hopelessly lost. It is time to make fundamental changes and basically start anew.

For whatever reasons, the County Assessor, Carol McDaniels, has been ineffective and, on many occasions, missing in action. Her actions, misactions and inactions have created intolerable delays and overriding distrust that has now caused the system to grind to a halt.

We are requesting that you seek Carol McDaniels' resignation and, if she is unwilling to resign, that you exercise the authority granted to you under Indiana Statutory

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Law to initiate the processes by which she can legally be removed from office.

We truly regret having to make this request. We, along with you, had been hopeful that the system could be put back together, but now we have abandoned that hope.

Very truly yours,

Kathleen Chroback
Mayor, City of La Porte

Teresa Ludlow
Clerk-Treasurer, City of La Porte

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cc: La Porte County Assessor
La Porte County Auditor
La Porte County Treasurer
La Porte County Commissioners
La Porte County Council
La Porte City Council
Mayor, Michigan City