



May 19, 2008

Fighting tax slavery

May 7 marked New Jersey's Tax Freedom Day for 2008. That's the day on which we stopped working to pay taxes and started working for ourselves. New Jersey has the nation's second-latest Tax Freedom Day, and it's no surprise.

We wake up in our homes, which are taxed at the nation's highest rate. We turn on the light, and the state taxes our electricity. We get in our cars for work, only to be taxed for vehicle registration, on our tires and for gas.

We get to work and get hit with the income tax, the unemployment tax, the disability tax and, soon, the paid-leave tax.

We cook dinner and pay energy taxes. Open a beer? Taxed. Flip on television? Taxed. Rather read a magazine? Taxed. Call Mom to say hello? Taxed. Attend a game at the Rock? Taxed again.

A group of legislators is committed to fighting all state tax increases. Members of the Assembly Taxpayer Protection Caucus, which I chair, have pledged to oppose tax increases, and we are always seeking ways to cut taxes. We aim to be part of the solution, not part of the tax problem.

-- Jay Webber, Morris Plains

The writer, a Republican, is an assemblyman representing the 26th District in Morris and Passaic counties.