

February \_\_, 2021

Assemblywoman Mila Jasey,  
Assemblyman John McKeon,  
Senator Richard Codey  
<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/SelectRep.asp>

Essex County Superintendent Joseph Zarra  
[joseph.zarra@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:joseph.zarra@doe.state.nj.us)

Acting Commissioner Department of Education Angelica Allen-McMillan  
<https://www.nj.gov/education/contact/>

Governor Phil Murphy  
<https://nj.gov/governor/contact/all/>

Re: South Orange-Maplewood School District Facilities Upgrade Bond

The South Orange-Maplewood School District is in the process of undertaking a \$160 million dollar construction project to upgrade its long-neglected facilities. This long-range facilities plan includes upgrades to its heating and ventilation systems in all of its school buildings along with many other necessary upgrades. These upgrades will allow its students and faculty to return to school safely.

Due to the pandemic, approvals from the New Jersey Department of Education for the South Orange-Maplewood School District have been delayed and are not yet completed. Because of this, SOMSD may miss the window of opportunity to get these much-needed upgrades to its schools starting this summer. If SOMSD does not get these approvals by March, it may have to delay construction until the Summer of 2022, which will affect its ability to provide an environment that is safe for the students and staff of SOMSD.

I am asking for your help in order to help expedite the approval process, and I am confident that everyone in South Orange-Maplewood School District would appreciate any help that you can provide.

Thank you in advance for your help with this matter.

Sincerely,

[Insert Name Here]