

Carol Duchesne to me

Aug 9

New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have been made aware that you are considering a recommendation for a 47% pay raise for the governor, state legislators and other state officials. This is an insult to every hard working taxpayer in the State of New York. The legislators have not proven they are worth what they make now with their salaries and various additional compensation for extra duties and per diems. Please keep in mind they are only part time. Their health insurance is better than what the average person can afford, and when they leave office, their pensions will be far above what the average individual receives on Social Security. That is, assuming Social Security continues to exist. With multiple investigations going on, there is a lack of trust in the honesty of elected officials. The excuse that higher pay will attract more qualified, honest people to run for office does not impress most of us. I have relatives and friends who have not received a pay raise in a number of years. Bonuses and extra compensation for a job well done are a thing of the past as businesses, especially small businesses, struggle to stay afloat. Many areas are suffering from the collapse of vital infrastructure, and have no funds to fix the problems. Take a good look at the number of areas of contamination of drinking water and the collapse of ancient water pipes and sewer lines. Those of us who are on fixed incomes must learn to get by on less money. We are not able to vote ourselves a pay raise. There was no increase in Social Security this year because there supposedly was no increase in the cost of living. I am one of the fortunate ones who have both Social Security and a small State Pension, earned through thirty years of hard work. Maybe it's time for our elected officials to start serving the voters and be thankful for the generous compensation they are already receiving. A pay raise may be in order, but 47% is ridiculous. To repeat a line from Schnectady's **Daily Gazette**, "Are you out of your minds?"

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