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The Long Island Builders Institute, New York State's largest residential trade organization, would like to express its opposition to the administrations proposed increases of the Tax-Map Verification fee and the Land Recording Fee in this year's budget. Just last year, we spoke in opposition of increasing the Tax-Map Verification fee from \$255 to \$355, after it was raised from \$75 to \$255 in 2015. Now, if passed, the fee will increase to \$455 just a year later. Three consecutive years of fee hikes is not only unreasonable but unacceptable.

Once again, the answer should not, and cannot, be another raise on the Tax-Map Verification fee and Land recording fee. The revenue from a fee is meant to pay for the costs of a specific government program or service, not to close budget gaps. That is what taxes are for. Raising fees on real estate transactions will have an adverse effect on potential buyers, particularly young people and those who are seeking access to affordable housing on Long Island.

While these fee increases may be seen as a solution to Nassau's budgetary woes, it will only make home ownership on Long Island further out of reach for potential buyers. Real Estate transactions already have a positive economic impact on the community, but it's extent can be stifled by creating more financial obstacles. It is unfair to continue to single out one industry and one set of residents to pay for expenses of the county which are open to all.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that these proposed increases be rejected.