

## Furloughs hurt revenue

One of New Jersey's contingency plans in the event that public unions do not accept pay cuts is to reduce government services across the board through furloughs.

Current plans call for the New Jersey Division of Taxation to be included in such cuts. Doing so would be like opening up fire hydrants during a drought — wholly absurd.

By reducing the number of cases handled by tax auditors, investigators and collection agents, the state will collect less money. For every full-time equivalent position lost, the state may save a couple of thousand dollars, but will be losing about \$1 million in annual revenue.

As a CPA and tax attorney, I know that the division is already significantly understaffed. Simple appeals take over a year to be heard due to such shortages. Caseworkers and managers are already overwhelmed as a result of previous budget cuts and early retirements.

Our citizens deserve carefully managed budgetary cuts. Cutting employees or employee time at Taxation makes little sense. I call on the governor and the treasurer to restore Taxation to full staffing rather than risking our ability to fairly collect taxes in New Jersey.

— Marty Davidoff, Dayton