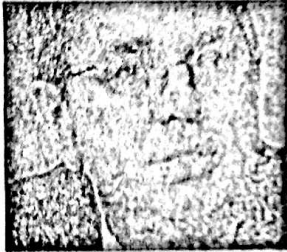


Feds: Bennett is cleared in billing probe

Ex-state Senate leader 'not target' of federal investigation

By JAMES W. PRADO ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER



John O. Bennett III

Former state Sen. John O. Bennett III, once the state's top Republican who lost re-election amid questions about his dealings in Marlboro, is "not a target" of a federal grand jury probe into legal bills he submitted to the municipality, according to a letter from a federal prosecutor.

The March 14 letter from the U.S. Attorney for New Jersey comes four years after Bennett asked the county prosecutor to investigate his dealings with a township developer, who was later indicted on a myriad of federal charges.

The letter, signed by Assistant U.S. Attorney James B. Nobile, told Ben-

nett's attorney that "in connection with a grand jury investigation regarding Marlboro Township professional billing matters, please be advised that John Bennett, III is not a target of this grand jury investigation."

Nobile defined a target as someone the grand jury has substantial criminal evidence against.

"My family and I are

See Bennett, Page A10

As I will not participate in the public attacks of fellow Republicans and will not stand for such activities as you next County Chairman, I am simply providing you with an excerpt of the 3/24/07 APP article in response to the "anonymous" mailing recently sent out enclosing 2 pages of a politically charged and intentionally biased novel. As always, I am humbled by and thank you for your support.

John

Bennett

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pleased that this chapter of our life can finally be closed," Bennett said in an e-mailed statement. He said he hoped the public would now be able to look back on the accomplishments of his public career.

STATEMENT FROM JOHN O. BENNETT III

"My family and I are pleased that this chapter of our life can finally be closed. I am hopeful with the conclusion of all investigations the public will now be able to look back on the service I provided during my time in the Legislature. I am proud of the work I did with so many others on improving the environment. The legacy of Clean Water and Clean Air will last for generations and for that I am very proud."