

American Littoral Society -- Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) – Burnham Park Association -- Clean Ocean Action -- Concerned Pilesgrove Residents (CPR) – Delaware Riverkeeper Network -- Environment New Jersey – LWV of Ocean Twp. – Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy – Musconetcong Watershed Association – Natural Resources Defense Council -- NJ Audubon Society – NJ Conservation Foundation – NJ Environmental Federation – NJ Environmental Lobby -- NJ Highlands Coalition – NY NJ Baykeeper – NY NJ Trail Conference – North Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance -- Passaic River Coalition -- Pequannock River Coalition – Pinelands Preservation Alliance – Sierra Club, NJ Chapter – Skylands CLEAN – South Branch Watershed Association – South Jersey Bayshore Coalition – South Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance -- Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association – Surfider Foundation -- Upper Raritan Watershed Association

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine
The State House
Trenton, NJ
Via Hand Delivery

Tuesday, June 24, 2008 (*updated with additional sign-on's 7.1.08*)

Dear Governor Corzine,

On behalf of the undersigned, we thank you for your Administration's considerable effort to date to minimize the Permit Extension Act's undermining environmental and public health protections, and good planning and urge you to complete this task with a conditional veto of the bill as described below.

We appreciate the intent to provide economic stimulus and believe the following changes would ensure the bill helps good projects in the right places but not bad projects in the wrong places:

- 1) **Re-restricting the "Dracula Clause" to January 1, 2008** – Last Thursday the bill was amended to expand the "Dracula" clause, which would bring back projects from the dead, from 6 to 18 months, and make valid permits and approvals without any notice, public participation, government action or due process for impacted property owners;
- 2) **Exempt Redevelopment Areas and preserve other municipal actions** to a) protect the environment, health, and safety, and b) promote appropriate redevelopment including transit villages, good planning, and affordable housing -- In the past 18 months, Newark, Bernards, Jersey City, and many more NJ towns have been moving to improve their planning and this bill will thwart these actions. Without action, casualties could include achieving round 3 affordable housing obligations, local protections for clean water, and building code improvements;
- 3) **Exempt Planning Area 4, the state's prime farmland**, to maintain a vibrant agricultural economy;
- 4) **Exempt the Global Warming Response Act and other new important standards** – the bill would limit the application of new rules and laws, e.g., requiring developers to meet more stringent energy efficiency standards in new home and commercial buildings, making it very difficult to comply with the Global Warming Response Act, which requires major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and

- 5) **Clarify the very vague, open-ended definition of approval by deleting the last 9 lines of its definition.** As drafted, rejected projects like Cherokee in Camden, EnCap, and the dumping of dredge spoils at Palmyra Cove Nature Center could come back to life.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and would also like to meet with you to discuss this further. Please contact David Pringle at 732-996-4288 and/or Jeff Tittel at 609-558-9100 to make arrangements.

Sincerely,

Abigail Fair, Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)
Alison Chase, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Alison Mitchell, NJ Conservation Foundation
Beth Styler Barry, Musconetcong Watershed Association
Bill Kibler, South Branch Watershed Association
Brenda Holzinger, NY NJ Trail Conference
Carleton Montgomery, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Cheryl Reardon, Concerned Pilesgrove Residents (CPR)
Cindy Ehrenclou, Upper Raritan Watershed Association
Cindy Zipf, Clean Ocean Action
David Pringle, NJ Environmental Federation
Debbie Mans, NY NJ Baykeeper
Dena Mottola Jaborska, Environment New Jersey
Ella Filippone, Passaic River Coalition
Jeff Tittel, Sierra Club – NJ Chapter
Jim Waltman, Stony Brook – Millstone Watershed Association
John Weber, Surfrider Foundation
Julia Somers, NJ Highland Coalition
Kim Gaddy, North Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance
Dr. Lynn Siebert, Burnham Park Association
Marie Curtis, League of Women Voters of Ocean Twp. (Monmouth)
Mike Pisauro, NJ Environmental Lobby
Robin O’Hearn, Skylands CLEAN
Ross Kushner, Pequannock River Coalition
Roy Jones, South Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance
Sandy Batty, South Jersey Bayshore Coalition
Tim Dillingham, American Littoral Society
Tom Gilmore, NJ Audubon Society
Tom Koven, Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy
Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Cc (via email): Lisa Jackson, Patti McGuire, Maggie Moran