

Stop Chris Christie's Pay-to-Play Politics

Governor Christie wants to help big corporations and wealthy campaign contributors at the expense of our health and safety on the job, our clean air and water, and our rights as consumers.

Christie has issued an order requiring **every** state agency to set up a process to allow it to waive most of the state rules that the agency is supposed to enforce.

He started with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Consumer Affairs. Other agencies, including the NJ Departments of Labor, Education, Health, etc. will likely follow.

This means Christie's political appointees will be able to let any chemical, oil, banking, insurance, drug, or development company violate our safeguards if they think it creates "an undue hardship."

Our state will face more corruption, as big corporations and the wealthy make even more campaign contributions, hoping to obtain waivers in return.

We need to stop this policy in its tracks by getting the state legislature to block the first agency's waiver rule. According to NJ's Constitution, if the Legislature passes a resolution by simple majority twice, it can invalidate the rule. The Governor can't veto it. The Assembly has already passed a resolution to do this. **Now the Senate must act.**



Please Act Now!

- 1) **Call State Senate President Steve Sweeney.** He decides whether SCR59 will get a vote. Urge him to support SCR59. Call him at (856) 251-9801.
- 2) **Sign the petition for stronger protections, not weaker ones at www.njwec.org.** And help get others to sign, as well.
- 3) **Volunteer with NJ WEC** by contacting WEC Campaign Organizer Mo Kinberg at mkinberg@njwec.org or call (609) 695-7100 ext. 300.



On the web at www.njwec.org and at www.facebook.com/NJWEC

See the reverse side for more information.

How Chris Christie's Waiver Policy Threatens Our Safeguards

Governor Christie's Executive Order #2 says every state agency must develop a process for "waiving" many of the safeguards and standards they are supposed to enforce.

In March, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was the first agency to adopt Christie's new waiver policy. Wealthy corporations will be able to get exemptions from DEP standards that protect workers and communities from toxic chemicals, radiation, or pesticide exposures. In April, the Division of Consumer Affairs was next. Corporations can now get permission to violate safeguards that protect consumers from fraud involving phones, loans, insurance, cars, home renovations, and many other products and services.

All state agencies, including the N.J. Department of Labor, will likely be adopting waiver rules too.

- **In addition to endangering the environment, DEP's waiver policy will endanger workers.** NJ regulations help ensure safer working conditions for employees in hazardous industries. Everyday, they guarantee our "right to know" about chemical hazards, prevent toxic catastrophes, and establish standards for cleaning-up spills, and monitoring radiation exposure.
- **The rule will hurt small businesses.** The proposed rule will make it harder for small business to compete with big corporations. To apply

for a waiver, a company will need political influence and the resources to pay attorneys and experts. Only wealthy, well-connected corporations can afford such expenses.

- **Waivers will be granted without public comment and with limited public notice.** This stops NJ residents who will be affected by a waiver from protesting, and will make it easy to reward campaign contributors with the right to violate state law.
- **The rule violates NJ law and the state constitution.** When the legislature wants an agency to grant waivers, it provides for that power by law. If Christie truly believes that the safeguards we all count on should be repealed, he should go to the legislature -- not unilaterally set up a process to let wealthy corporations and individuals simply ignore the law. That's why 28 labor, environmental, and other organizations have filed a lawsuit to block the DEP waiver policy.

If you would like to join the campaign against Christie's waiver policy, contact WEC Campaign Organizer Mo Kinberg at mkinberg@njwec.org or call (609) 695-7100 ext. 300.

This flyer is distributed by the NJ Work Environment Council, 142 West State St., Third Floor, Trenton, NJ 08608. On the web at www.njwec.org.

Who Opposes the DEP Waiver Rule?

Some of these organizations are:

United Steelworkers District 4
Health Professionals & Allied Employees (AFT)
Professional Firefighters Association of NJ (IAFF)
New Jersey Education Association
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1360
American Fed. of Teachers Local 1766/
Union of Rutgers Administrators
International Chemical Workers Union Council (UFCW)
Communications Workers of America
District 1 & CWA Local 1036
District 1199J National Union of Hospital &
Health Care Employees, AFSCME
Teamsters Locals 877 & 469
International Federation of Professional
& Technical Engineers Local 194

American Federation of Government Employees District 2
United Transportation Union NJ
NJ State Industrial Union Council
Sierra Club, NJ Chapter
NJ Environmental Federation
Environment New Jersey
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions
NJ Environmental Lobby
NJ Audubon Society
Clean Ocean Action
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Hackensack Riverkeeper
NJ/NJ Baykeeper
Food and Water Watch