

FORWARD, NOT BACK!

Wall Street and corporate CEOs destroyed American jobs and now have the highest profits and cash reserves in history. Yet, they are asking Gov. Christie and the legislature for new giveaways.

New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation and we have the greatest number of hazardous facilities per square mile – which is just one reason why our state safeguards to protect health, public safety, air and water quality, and jobs are often stronger than federal standards.

Throughout our history, the NJ legislature has passed laws setting broad policy to protect the public interest. Scientists and other public interest professionals have then used the best evidence and research to develop detailed safeguards for all corporations to follow.

But now Assembly Bill 2486 (Burzichelli/Rumana) and Senate Bill 1986 (Van Drew/Oroho) – backed by corporate CEOs and Wall Street – would:

- **Block state agencies from issuing new safeguards stronger than federal standards** unless the 120 members of the legislature had debated and voted on every word – meaning that decisions about our fundamental safeguards would be determined by political infighting, gridlock, and lobbyists' influence instead of facts and evidence.
- **Undo longstanding safeguards** as they come up for renewal and revision and thus could be considered “new” standards banned by this bill.
- **Lead to millions of dollars worth of litigation** over how the bill is interpreted.

Just some of the many New Jersey safeguards threatened by this bill concern:

- Oil spills, toxic contaminants in drinking water, and ocean dumping.
- Nuclear and chemical plant accidents or attacks.
- Workplace hazards.
- Layoffs by corporations after they took tax subsidies to provide jobs.
- Students with disabilities.
- Food and toy safety.
- Lead poisoning of children and building occupants.
- Quality standards for seeds and agriculture.

Your Action is Needed Now!

Consider how this legislation could affect safeguards you need the most.

1) Call or e-mail Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver (D-34). Ask her to issue a statement opposing A2486. Call (973) 395-1166; Email AswOliver@njleg.org

2) Pass a resolution and sign petitions opposing A2486/S1986. Contact the NJ Work Environment Council for a model resolution, petitions, and how to get involved.

3) Tell Gov. Christie and our legislators that we need green jobs and stronger safeguards, not new giveaways to Wall Street and corporate CEOs.

For more information, go to www.njwec.org/save_our_sensible_safeguards.cfm
or email rengler@njwec.org

Seventy-Seven Organizations Oppose A2486/S1986

NJ Work Environment Council
BlueGreen Alliance
NJ Working Families Alliance

LABOR & RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

NJ State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association
Professional Firefighters Association of NJ
NJ Fraternal Order of Police
Teamsters Local 877
Teamsters Local 469
United Steelworkers District 4
USW Local 4-943
USW Local 4-397
USW Local 4-417
NJ Education Association
AFSCME Council 1
International Chemical Workers Union Council (UFCW)
United Food and Commercial Workers Region 1
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1360
Service Employees International Union, NJ State Council
District 1199J, National Union of Hospital and Health Care
Employees, AFSCME
American Federation of Teachers, NJ State Federation
Health Professionals and Allied Employees (AFT)
International Federation of Professional and Technical
Employees Local 194
International Federation of Professional and Technical
Employees Local 195
Communications Workers of America District 1
Communications Workers of America Local 1036
Communications Workers of America Local 1037
Communications Workers of America Local 1081
American Federation of Government Employees, District 2
United Transportation Union
United Electrical Workers Local 155
Burlington County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
New Labor
NJ State Industrial Union Council
Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and
Health
NJ Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
CLPER

ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, PUBLIC INTEREST, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

NJ Environmental Federation
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions
NJ Citizen Action
Environment NJ
NJ Audubon Society
Sierra Club - NJ Chapter
NJ Environmental Lobby
NJ Environmental Justice Alliance
American Littoral Society
Clean Ocean Action
GreenFaith
Greenpeace
Air & Energy Program, Natural Resources Defense Council
Camden County Branch, National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
Ironbound Community Corp
Concerned Citizens Coalition of Long Branch
Paterson Task Force for Community Action
Edison Wetlands Association
Upper Raritan Watershed Association
South Branch Watershed Association
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

NY/NJ Baykeeper
Hackensack Riverkeeper
NJ Highlands Coalition
Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association
NJ Conservation Foundation
Surfrider Foundation
Humane Society
Consumers for Civil Justice
NJ Special Education Practitioners
Statewide Education Organizing Committee
Healthy Schools Network
Food and Water Watch
Environmental Research Foundation
Coalition Against Toxics
NJ Environmental Watch, Elizabeth, NJ
Projects for Environmental Health, Knowledge, & Action
Housing and Community Development Network of NJ
NJ Tenants Organization
National Lawyers Guild, Rutgers-Camden Chapter

For more information, go to:

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Or contact:

Forward, Not Back!
c/o New Jersey Work Environment Council
142 West State Street – Third Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08608
Telephone: (609) 695-7100
On the web: www.njwec.org

“New Jersey, the most densely populated state in the nation, requires more stringent safeguards for our drinking water, the cleanup of our contaminated sites, and the use of highly toxic substances in chemical plants located on the very border of the neighborhoods where we raise our families. By impeding our state from enacting any new rule that would exceed federal standards, this legislation ties the hands of the very agencies created to respond to New Jersey’s unique geographic and historical circumstances. We must not undermine decades of health, labor, and environmental protections which protect the safety and well-being of our neighborhoods, families, and workers.”

-Senator Majority Leader Barbara Buono
Speaking in opposition to S1986/A2486

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