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For Immediate Release

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### **A statement from Raymond M. Pocino regarding the ARC Tunnel**

Governor Christie's decision to kill the ARC Tunnel signifies a lost opportunity, one that may not happen again for a generation or more. By failing to invest in a project that just about everyone agrees is needed—from planners to public safety officials, commuters to companies—the governor adds to the state's ignominious reputation as the nation's newest rust belt state, one that is failing to make necessary investments and whose quality of life and economic competitiveness is in decline.

I am deeply disappointed by the governor's decision to kill the ARC Tunnel project. While the governor may cite unknown future costs as the reason to jettison a project that was more than a decade in the making, he must also realize the tremendous costs New Jersey must bear by his decision. In the short term, thousands of construction workers must find gainful employment in an industry devastated by the recession, businesses will lay off employees and those employees will need to figure out if mortgages can be paid and food can be put on the table. Make no mistake about it; the governor's decision hurts workers now.

The loss of ARC also means commuters must roll the dice on an overburdened rail system and a century-old tunnel. It means some residents will choose driving over train delays and will burden our highways and pollute our air because it is still a better option than our aging and overburdened rail system. New Jersey will not under-invest its way to greatness.

Obviously, New Jersey is at risk of losing \$3 billion of federal support, the largest federal contribution ever offered to a mass transit project. If Governor Christie remains committed to a better solution, if he feels there is another way, I would hope he would act with the urgency that matches the ARC Tunnel's importance. Saying that the ARC Tunnel doesn't work is not good enough. The governor must offer his own plan to expand and improve rail service in New Jersey and into Manhattan; he must come up with a plan to save the \$3 billion of federal funding, and he must do it now. For all the complaints about New Jersey being a donor state, here is our chance to get federal funds back, funds that will help pay for infrastructure investment that is urgently needed.

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