



September 14, 2010

Governor Chris Christie
State of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0001

Dear Governor Christie,

As leading planning groups in New Jersey, we write to express our continued and strong support for the Access to the Region's Core (ARC) project.

ARC is currently in the final stages of full-funding grant review for the federal government's financial contribution to the project. While we understand a hold has been placed on further contract bids as project costs are quantified, we urge swift completion of the budget review to keep ARC on track. Keeping state projects within budget is paramount as state budget constraints demand the utmost in efficiency. However, stalling ARC will only lead to higher expenses later and could mean New Jersey would have to refund the federal government hundreds of millions of dollars and miss out on thousands of desperately needed, well-paying jobs.

We are aware detractors of the project have expressed concerns about specific elements, but these are overstated and in many cases unfounded, as our fact sheet included here points out. The benefits of this project are just too great and too significant to ignore as our groups have detailed in numerous rigorous research reports.

ARC will enable major economic growth, alleviate traffic gridlock at the lower Hudson River crossings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase home values throughout northern and central New Jersey. It is truly a once-in-a-generation project that will transform the commuting ability and growth potential for the State. In the short term, it will also provide jobs and stimulus as the state works to recover from the recession.

Sincerely,

Peter Kasabach
Executive Director
New Jersey Future

Kate Slevin
Executive Director
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Tom Wright
Executive Director
Regional Plan Association

Cc:

Honorable Frank Lautenberg

Honorable Robert Menendez

NJ TRANSIT Executive Director James Weinstein

New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Jim Simpson

Port Authority Executive Director Chris Ward

Port Authority Chairman Tony Coscia

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff