



March 2, 2009

Dear Governor Corzine:

As representatives of a broad array of diverse organizations—representing the environment, transportation, business and planning—we commend your leadership on the issue of global warming. Each of the organizations signed below approaches this issue from its own perspective, and many have submitted individual comments to the Department of Environmental Protection on the *draft Global Warming Response Act Recommendation Report*. We have come together here, however, because we believe your groundbreaking effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has the potential—if properly implemented—to advance multiple goals for New Jersey’s environment, economy and society. We would like to meet with you to discuss our recommendations.

As you have acknowledged, the work done so far is only the beginning. **Reaching New Jersey’s ambitious climate change goals will require a sustained effort across state and local government that must be led and coordinated by you and your staff.** The DEP is playing a critical role in devising recommendations to meet the greenhouse gas reduction goals. But as the department itself acknowledges in its draft report, *all agencies* will have to integrate statewide greenhouse gas limits into every aspect of their decision-making. Coordinating this effort is simply beyond the ability of any single agency.

The direct involvement of the Governor’s Office will be especially important to meet the 2050 goals, which require reducing emissions from transportation, the largest and fastest growing source of emissions. The DEP makes clear in its draft report that land-use reforms aimed at reducing the amount we drive must be a part of the solution, noting “*how and where New Jersey grows today will determine its carbon footprint for decades to come.*” Yet land-use decisions are influenced by many factors over which the DEP has limited or no control.

To that end, we would like to discuss with you a few specific actions your administration can take that build on the good work to which your cabinet has already committed. The following steps can be acted on this year, and within budget constraints, to achieve measurable reductions in carbon emissions:

- Ensure that federal stimulus funds help implement the state’s global warming plan.
- Maintain NJ Transit services despite tight budget constraints and lay the groundwork for future growth that builds on the investment in the ARC tunnel.
- Jumpstart construction of employment centers and homes in prime locations near transit.
- Pilot a county-level planning initiative to reach our greenhouse gas targets more efficiently.
- Recast the State Planning Commission as the Governor’s tool to coordinate the land-use changes called for in the global warming report.

These efforts (for which we can recommend more detailed action steps) require cooperation of multiple state agencies. One approach we’d like to discuss is an Executive Order that directs your agencies to align specific programs, regulations and capital spending, as suggested above, behind the common goal of greenhouse gas reduction.

In the spirit of joining together to find ways to achieve a “green and lean” prosperity that is within the constraints of our natural environment and our budgets, **we request a meeting of our organizations’ representatives with you and your staff to discuss our more detailed recommendations and help ensure that your goals for greenhouse gas reductions will be met.** Under your leadership, state government can—and must—work collaboratively to tackle global warming.

Sincerely,

Martin Bierbaum, Executive Director, Municipal Land Use Center

Dianne Brake, President, PlanSmart NJ

Tony DiLodivico, Principal – Regulatory Compliance, CMX

Michael Egenton, Vice President, Environment and Transportation, New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce

John Hasse, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Rowan University

Peter Kasabach, Executive Director, New Jersey Future

Courtenay Mercer, President, American Planning Association–New Jersey Chapter

Carlos Rodrigues, Vice President and New Jersey Director, Regional Plan Association

Kate Slevin, Executive Director, Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Jim Waltman, Executive Director, Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association