

January 31, 2019

The Honorable Phil Murphy  
Governor of New Jersey  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

RE: New Jersey State Plan

Dear Governor Murphy,

New Jersey is a remarkable place, packing more people per square mile than any other state in the country while still offering 130 miles of shoreline, nearly 233,000 acres of farmland, and everything in between. New Jersey is a place full of places, each with its own unique character, made special by the people living there.

We are on the cusp of setting our state on a course toward economic and environmental vitality through the development of the Economic Development Strategic Plan, the Coastal Resiliency Plan, and the updated Energy Master Plan. In order to streamline resources and maximize results, an overarching blueprint for the state is required. That blueprint is the State Plan.

New Jersey has a rich history as a leader of planning for growth. The State Planning Act was passed in 1985 and directed the creation of the State Planning Commission, the Office of State Planning, and the State Development and Redevelopment Plan to provide a goal for future growth and a plan to get there. The State Planning Act requires the plan to be updated every three years, however New Jersey has not adopted an updated plan since 2001. The state plan was updated in a 2011 draft, but that version was never formally adopted. New Jersey could once again be viewed as a leader in this space.

New Jersey municipalities are looking to the State Plan to guide smart development decisions, but those decisions are being based on a 2001 snapshot of our state's priorities and challenges. Municipalities with expiring CAFRA centers are actively seeking Plan Endorsement to advance development and redevelopment and are unable to proceed due to vacancies on the State Planning Commission. At the state level, well-intentioned legislation addressing redevelopment, infrastructure, and environmental issues is being introduced and passed while still referring to the 2001 State Plan.

We, the undersigned, call on the State of New Jersey to:

- Fill the vacant seats on the State Planning Commission;
- Update the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, and;
- Reconstitute the Office of State Planning

This effort is important for New Jersey to properly address issues of equity, climate change, and our crumbling infrastructure. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact Peter Kasabach of New Jersey Future at [pkasabach@njfuture.org](mailto:pkasabach@njfuture.org) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Peter Kasabach  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Future

Charles W. Lantini, Jr., AICP,  
PP  
Director  
American Planning  
Association – New Jersey

John G. Donnadio, Esq.  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Association of  
Counties

Courtenay D. Mercer, AICP,  
PP  
Director  
Preservation NJ

Courtenay D. Mercer, AICP,  
PP  
Director  
Downtown NJ

Ravinder S. Bhalla  
Mayor  
Hoboken

Ras Baraka  
Mayor  
Newark

Reed Gusciora  
Mayor  
Trenton

Bert H. Steinmann  
Mayor  
Ewing

Liz Lempert  
Mayor  
Princeton

Tom Wright  
President & CEO  
Regional Planning  
Association

Janna Chernetz  
Deputy Director  
Tri-State Transportation  
Campaign

Michele S. Byers  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Conservation  
Foundation

Ed Potasnak  
Executive Director  
New Jersey League of  
Conservation Voters

Jennifer Coffey  
Executive Director  
Association of New Jersey  
Environmental Commissions

Julia M. Somers  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Highlands  
Coalition

Carleton Montgomery  
Executive Director  
Pinelands Preservation  
Alliance

Staci Berger  
President & CEO  
Housing and Community  
Development Network of  
New Jersey

Brandon McKoy  
Director of Government and  
Public Affairs  
New Jersey Policy  
Perspective

CC: Danielle Esser  
President Joseph Fiordaliso  
Commissioner Diane Scaccetti Gutierrez  
Shing-Fu Hsueh  
Commissioner Catherine McCabe  
Edward J. McKenna, Jr.  
Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver  
Chigozie Onyema  
Secretary of State Tahesha Way  
Melanie Willoughby