



May 7, 2020

**To our Friends and Supporters:**

As parks reopen and we begin preparing to restart the economy, COVID-19 continues to teach us valuable lessons about the ways in which we live, work, and recreate. At the same time, the pandemic is exacerbating social, environmental, and economic challenges that have persisted in New Jersey long before the pandemic struck. There is no better time to address these challenges than right now.

We know that our communities are heavily segregated by income and race, and that the wealth and income gap has been growing. We understand the risks associated with climate change, flooding, and now pandemics. We know that where you live can determine your health and the length of your life. And we know that strong communities are vibrant, thriving places with robust economies, effective leadership, modern infrastructure systems, and an ability to adapt to change.

Given what we know and the lessons we are learning, it is imperative that we use this knowledge during the recovery phase so that we significantly improve our state. We should be asking critical questions during each investment and policy decision, questions like Whom will this impact and how? Are we putting people or property in harm's way? What long-term effects will this have? Are we planning with the future in mind?

New Jersey Future has a track record of incorporating these types of questions into our work pre-pandemic and we are committed more than ever to asking them now. We have dedicated a page on our website to COVID-19 and New Jersey's future, a future with strong, healthy, resilient communities for everyone. Please join us in our journey forward to a better New Jersey.

*In collaboration,*

**Peter Kasabach**  
**Executive Director**