

106 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

(609) 989-8730
FAX (609) 989-8734
www.njafclcio.org

CHARLES WOWKANECH LAUREL BRENNAN

CHARLES H. MARCIANTE



JOYCE ALSTON
MICHAEL BARNES
JACK BERGACS
JEFF BINZ
PATRICK BRENNAN
KENNETH CAMPBELL
THOMAS CANZANELLA
AL CERNADAS
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MILLY SILVA
JOSEPH SORESI
ED TREACY
PATRICK TULLY
ANN TWOMEY
HARVEY WHILLE

March 6, 2006



Dear Members of the Senate Economic Growth Committee:

Testimony of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO on S-1472 (Karcher/Kyrillos)

Creates Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority

On behalf of the more than one million workers and 1,000 affiliated unions represented by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, we respectfully request your support for S-1472. We would like to thank Senators Karcher and Kyrillos for sponsoring this bill and Chairman Lesniak for posting it for a hearing today.

There is no doubt that the 2005 decision by the Pentagon to close Fort Monmouth was a disappointing one. Throughout the BRAC process, many key members of the military, academic, labor and business communities spoke of the negative impact the base's closure would have and there is no doubt that our Congressional representatives did all that was within their power to reverse this decision.

In the months following this decision, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO offered our resources to ensure that the workers and communities affected by this bad decision be given the support that they need to recover. We believed then, and we still believe now, that we all have the responsibility to develop an effective and efficient plan for supporting the workers who have been displaced by this decision and collectively search for opportunities to develop a meaningful redevelopment plan.

We thank the sponsors of this legislation for working in a bipartisan fashion to create the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority, and especially for ensuring that through labor's participation on it the voices of the region's working families are heard.

Once again the New Jersey State AFL-CIO offers its full resources to the redevelopment and revitalization efforts and respectfully urges your support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Charles Wowkanech
President

Laurel Brennan
Secretary/Treasurer

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