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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Jersey State AFL-CIO Stands with Senator Frank R. Lautenberg to Announce New Chemical Security Protections for New Jersey

Trenton- On behalf of one million workers, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO applauds Senator Frank R. Lautenberg for fighting to preserve New Jersey's right for better working and living conditions for all our citizens. The passage of the Lautenberg Chemical Security Provision into law ensures that New Jersey's tough security measures for its chemical and petroleum sectors cannot be preempted by weaker federal regulation. This law marks another important victory in our fight to ensure that in New Jersey, we are able to do what is best for us, rather than have it decided for us by those who do not live and work here.

"This law preserves our right to pave the way for progressive ideas and far reaching regulations. It is an important landmark for retaining our ability to enforce tougher regulations and establishing a guiding light for other states," stated Charles Wowkanech, President of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO at a press conference today in Jersey City.

One of the components of New Jersey's comprehensive security plan, which is the first in the nation to promote worker involvement, is the requirement of 150 chemical and petroleum facilities to participate in the State's Security Awareness and Preparedness Training Program, led by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO and Rutgers University. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO recognizes all of the strategic partners including labor, business and industry, our state and federal governments and academia, who collaborated on the development and implementation of this Program.

Representatives of 161 companies in New Jersey have been trained in Security Awareness and Preparedness, some of whom participated voluntarily. Each strategic partner stepped up to the challenge, including the individual companies who contributed significant resources and time to send representatives to the training, as well as providing direct training at their facilities.

President Wowkanech challenged the participants of today's conference, "Let us applaud and advance this strategic partnership that continues to enhance the safety and security of our state and furthermore set an outstanding precedent for other states and even other nations to follow."

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