

State Legislation Is Credited With Jobs Improvement in New Jersey

TRENTON — In a release from Asm. Jon Bramnick's (Westfield) office: A new report released by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority credits a law sponsored by Assemblyman Anthony Bucco (R-25, Randolph) and Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21, Westfield) with saving 11,200 jobs that were at risk of leaving the Garden State.

"After a decade of policies that forced jobs out of our state, it is refreshing to see the Legislature have a positive impact on the economy," Asm. Bramnick said. "By working across the aisle, we were able to help businesses open new offices and manufacturing centers throughout the state. We must continue to send the message that New Jersey is no longer a hostile environment for job creators."

"Just like the Giants from a few months ago, New Jersey job creation was going nowhere fast," said Asm. Bucco, the ranking Republican on the Commerce and Economic Development Committee. "But sound public policy like this has helped create more than 60,000 private-sector jobs

over the past two years and will make New Jersey a Super Bowl champion of economic recovery."

They noted: According to the EDA report, the changes to the Business Retention and Relocation Assistance Grant (BRRAG) Program, sponsored by Asm. Bucco and Asm. Bramnick, helped 26 companies in New Jersey retain 11,267 jobs. The sponsors said they proposed the law as a way to make New Jersey's business climate more competitive with other states. Under the new law, businesses can receive a maximum \$2,250 tax credit per job retained or relocated in the state as long as they commit to remaining in New Jersey for five years plus the length of time they receive the tax credit. The amount of the tax credit is based on how many jobs are retained, and in order to be eligible, businesses must demonstrate that they have a viable offer to move to another state.

Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver (D-34, East Orange) and Assemblyman Albert Coutinho (D-29, Newark) also sponsored the law. Governor Christie signed it into law on January 6, 2011.

Lance Statement on 1,000th Day Without A U.S. Senate Budget

Yesterday (Monday), the White House announced it would again miss its deadline and fail to submit the President's budget to Congress by the first Monday in February.

Producing a federal budget blueprint is one of the most basic responsibilities of the Congress. Yet it has been 1,000 days since the United States Senate last offered a budget plan to the American people. The last time the Democratic-controlled U.S. Senate passed a budget was April 29,

2009. House Republicans, under the leadership of Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, passed a budget plan last April that lowered spending, reformed entitlements, reduced our deficits and debt and put the nation on a glide path toward a balanced budget. The Ryan budget was presented to the American people as a serious and honest approach to bringing fiscal sanity back to our nation.

But for nearly three years, the Democratic majority of the U.S. Senate has chosen to avoid the hard budgetary choices working families and small businesses must make every day. The Senate's failure to pass a plan for our nation's fiscal future has led to unchecked spending, higher deficits and debt and a diminished American economy.

Later this evening (Tuesday) the President will give his State of the Union address. It is my hope that President Obama will call upon Senate leaders to do its job and put forth, debate and pass a credible budget plan. Only then can we begin to have a serious, bipartisan discussion on how to best bring growth, prosperity, certainty and fiscal responsibility to our economy.

Rep. Leonard Lance NJ-7

Allow Referendum by Voters to Decide Same Sex Marriage Issue

Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21, Westfield) issued the following statement on Tuesday regarding Governor Christie's call for the Legislature to have voters decide by referendum in November whether same sex marriage should be legalized:

"An issue of this magnitude should be decided by the voters of New Jersey. Legalizing same-sex marriage represents a significant change from the way marriage has been traditionally defined. The voters deserve the right to settle this issue by referendum in November."



ON DUTY...Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad members Dan Klibaner, Eric Taylor and Brendan Galligan were three of the dozen squad EMTs who served at the fire on Sunday. Three ambulances were provided. A Clark firefighter was transported to Overlook Medical Center for a back injury. The trio stayed on scene until late in the night when they were released by the Westfield Fire Department.

Courtesy of Jonathan Delano

Sen. Tom Kean's Statement on Supreme Court Nominations

TRENTON — Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean, Jr. (R-Westfield) stated:

"Governor Christie has picked two nominees with impeccable legal credentials to serve on our state's highest court. Mr. Kwon has helped lead the fight on public corruption in New Jersey in the offices of the attorney general and U.S. attorney. Mr. Harris, a constituent with whom I had the pleasure of campaigning this past fall, comes from two of New Jersey's most prestigious and influential law firms. The most important qualification for a nominee to the Supreme Court is his or her skill and knowledge as an attorney. The Governor has found in Phillip Kwon and Bruce Harris two ex-

traordinarily qualified members of the Bar to serve the people of this state."

"However, one also cannot help but appreciate the historic nature of these appointments in addition to the qualifications these men offer. If confirmed, New Jersey will have its first Asian-American and first openly-gay associate justices on the Court, as well as only the third African American. Their nominations speak truth to the idea that ours is a state where people from all walks of life can achieve the American dream.

"Today is a proud moment for New Jersey. I call on the Senate President to make good on his commitment from last year to hold swift confirmation proceedings for these two nominees."

Mountainside Ed Foundation Seeks Persons Interested in Board of Trustees

The Mountainside Education Foundation ("MEF") is currently seeking persons to serve on its Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees of the MEF is comprised of a dynamic group of individuals who work towards the goal of ensuring that Mountainside remains one of the very best school districts in the state. Some, but certainly not all, of the enrichment programs that the MEF has either completely or partially funded this year and in the past are Raz Kids - a program designed to provide an online interactive leveled book library for children in grades K-2, NJPAC Arts Academy Creative Movement program for children in Grade 1, NJPAC Poetry Program for children in Grade 5, and Rutgers Science Explorer Bus - a program that brought hands-on interactive laboratory exercises to students inside a 40-foot mobile laboratory. This is but a small sampling of the programs made possible by the efforts of the MEF.

A key to the past and future success of

the MEF is the active participation of all members of the Board of Trustees. MEF board members are expected to attend board meetings consistently, serve on at least one committee, actively participate in all fundraising activities and prepare before regular board meetings by reading and studying materials sent in advance. A commitment of three years ensures continuity of experience on the board. The board meets once a month. A total of 11 persons serve on the board of trustees. There is one position currently open and the term would begin with the June 2012 board of trustees meeting.

The Mountainside Ed. Foundation welcomes all interested parties to submit their name and contact information along with a short statement of why he/she would like to join the board of trustees to Susan Buchner, co-president, at mef@mountainsideeducationfoundation.org or to the MEF box located in the offices of the Beachwood or Deerfield Schools. The deadline is February 28, 2012.

IT'S TIME!



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list for
2012?

