



GOV. CHRISTIE PROPOSES NEW RED TAPE FOR HOMES IN NEW JERSEY

*Governor's Plan, If Implemented, Would Delay or Stop
Over 40,000 New Homes, With Immediate Economic Impact*

May 13, 2010 - Trenton, New Jersey- Gov. Christie today announced his double standard for red tape. The Governor proposed a new policy that would allow towns to stop a wide range of new homes from being built, including redevelopment near mass transit, starter homes, and homes for people with special needs. The Governor's proposed approach mirrors a proposed regulation by Gov. McGreevey that the courts struck down in 2007 because it allowed for more restrictive zoning regulations than permitted by the State Constitution.

"With 40,000 new starter homes in the pipeline as the economy begins to recover, the Governor is wrapping the whole state in layers of red tape," Kevin Walsh, Associate Director of Fair Share Housing Center said. "This illegal policy would choke off new homes and jobs that our state needs to achieve economic stability and recovery."

Today's proposal continues Gov. Christie's efforts to undermine New Jersey's housing laws and, as with his previous effort, it is certain to go nowhere. Gov. Christie's first attempt at a housing policy included the issuance of an executive order that shut down the Council on Affordable Housing. After the Appellate Division of the Superior Court, in response to litigation filed by Fair Share Housing Center, enjoined Gov. Christie from enforcing that executive order, the governor rescinded the order the day before the matter was scheduled to be considered by the court.

New Jersey's housing market is one of the most expensive in the nation and, according to a 2006 Brookings Institution study, is burdened by the nation's most restrictive zoning policies. New Jersey is also the most economically segregated and fifth most racially segregated state in the country. The policies promoted by the governor would exacerbate, rather than solve these problems.

"Non-profit and for-profit builders throughout the state are ready to put shovels in the ground this year to create new homes and jobs," said Staff Attorney Adam Gordon. "The uncertainty created by Gov. Christie's action will likely kill these jobs and stop much-needed entry level homes from being built.

Fair Share Housing Center, founded in 1975, is the only public interest organization devoted entirely to defending the housing rights of New Jersey's poor through implementing the Mount Laurel doctrine.

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