

## GOV. CHRISTIE'S CONDITIONAL VETO GIVES TOWNS LICENSE TO EXCLUDE

**January 24, 2011 – New Jersey** - This afternoon, Governor Christie conditionally vetoed the housing legislation that was passed by the Legislature earlier this month. In doing so, he called on the Legislature to adopt revised legislation that would allow municipalities to completely exclude lower-income households. His proposed amendments would allow municipalities to determine their housing obligations and would reimpose growth share, a failed system that has been rejected twice by the courts as unconstitutional because it allowed municipalities to avoid their regional low- and moderate-income housing obligations.

Kevin D. Walsh, Associate Director of Fair Share Housing Center, said, "If the governor's proposed amendments become law, New Jersey's housing policy will be set back four decades. In New Jersey, most wealthy, job-rich towns do everything they can to keep out regular working folks who are bus drivers, waitresses, and public employees. The governor has sided with wealthy towns that unreasonably prevent starter homes and apartments from being built. The legislation he proposed violates the Mount Laurel doctrine, is bad for our economy, and would be rejected by the courts."

The governor's decision today puts him at odds with the business community, which called on him to sign the legislation he conditionally vetoed. Walsh continued, "Governor Christie has rejected the demands of the business community and sided with discriminatory towns."