

Apr-28-06 Corzine Signs Bill Creating Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Planning Authority

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CORZINE SIGNS BILL CREATING FORT MONMOUTH ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION PLANNING AUTHORITY

FORT MONMOUTH - Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed legislation creating the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Planning Authority. The Authority will be charged with developing a comprehensive conversion and revitalization plan for Fort Monmouth after it is closed by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

"First and foremost, the work of the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Planning Authority will be to examine how we take this valuable asset, and use it to meet the needs of the local community and our state," Corzine said. "As we deal with issues regarding the disposition of property and the retention and creation of good jobs, the authority's answer will be guided by the fact that the future of our entire community depends on creating strong, smart and sustainable economic growth."

The bill, S-1049, was sponsored by Senators Ellen Karcher (Mercer and Monmouth) and Joseph Kyrillos (Middlesex and Monmouth). The Assembly Bill was sponsored by Assemblymen Michael Panter (Mercer and Mercer), John Burzichelli (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester), Samuel Thompson (Middlesex and Monmouth) and Sean Kean (Monmouth).

The planning authority will consist of 10 members and will be appointed as follows:

- Four members will be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Two of the members will be representatives of the

private sector, one will be a representative of land conservation and environmental concerns and one will be a representative of organized labor. No more than two of the Governor's appointed members will be from the same political party.

- One member will be appointed by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders
- The Secretary of Commerce
- The Mayor of Eatontown
- The Mayor of Oceanport
- The Mayor of Tinton Falls
- One Representative of Fort Monmouth, appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Defense

The authority will be organized within the Department of Treasury but will be independent of any supervision or control by the department.