



## NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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December 7, 2016

Governor Chris Christie

Office of the Governor of New Jersey

State House

125 West State Street

P.O. Box 001

Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie

I would like to take a moment to address your recent proposal to undertake restoration of portions of the New Jersey State House. There are certainly specific structural and safety concerns that need to be addressed to ensure that our treasured State House does not fall into disrepair to the extent that it makes it difficult to do the work of the people of our state.

While I am sure that there is a team in place to present a full picture of the restoration project to the public and implement it, I write on an area of concern regarding these efforts: the workforce that will carry out the construction.

As you know, the unemployment rate within the building and construction trades continues to lag. There are thousands of New Jerseyans who continue to seek long-term employment in their field of expertise. Right here, just miles outside the steps of the State House, there are men and women in the building and construction trades who would undertake the work of reconstruction to a quality level that is beyond reproach.

The restoration would potentially last several years as you have stated. As such, this would translate to stable jobs for experts in plumbing, pipefitting, electrical, carpentry, insulation, bricklaying, and other trades. Specialists in these fields who are from New Jersey would be proud to be a part of revitalizing the structure under our state's shining Golden Dome.

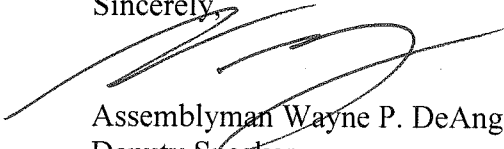
For this reason, I strongly encourage that the construction work on the New Jersey State House be completed by men and women from New Jersey. This is a perfect opportunity to demonstrate to businesses doing construction work in New Jersey that we have the strongest and best-trained workforce. We should lead by example.

Furthermore, it is my fervent hope and belief that the contracts entered into by the State should include a requirement that the workers involved are covered under Project Labor Agreements (PLAs). Such agreements are consistently used in public construction projects of all sizes such as construction on college campuses and local school districts. They are put in place to ensure a fair deal for the contractors and the construction workforce.

By utilizing PLAs and New Jersey workers, the financial investment that the State will make in this restoration project will be further invested in the state's economy. It is important that, if we are to make such a sizable expenditure, that we maximize the benefit by using the people physically doing the work; the businesses overseeing the project; the materials purchased; and the technology implemented. This project can, and should, prove beneficial to thousands of people of New Jersey: those who work in the State House; visitors to it; and those who are entrusted with the work needed to revitalize it.

I would be open to working with your office on this matter of concern as the restoration project gets underway. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne P. DeAngelo', written over a horizontal line.

Assemblyman Wayne P. DeAngelo  
Deputy Speaker  
14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

cc: New Jersey Building Authority