



NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

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The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Pending legislation A4810 (Pinkin) / S441 (Oroho)

March 23, 2021

Dear Governor Murphy,

We ask that you veto **A4810 (Pinkin) / S441 (Oroho)**, a bill on your desk that would establish the Government Efficiency and Regulatory Review Commission. We have serious concerns about this legislation because it could be used to review and weaken regulatory protections for both NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the NJ Department of Labor. We have been fighting similar bills for over ten years, and we are surprised and dismayed that it was able to pass the Legislature so easily.

We are concerned that this proposed Commission will be used to delay or sabotage your agenda. It could end up slowing down or even derail your administration's work on Environmental Justice, climate change, resiliency, chronic flooding, coastal protections, and many other important issues. This includes your work on the NJ Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT) Rules.

This legislation is designed to stop health and environmental regulations as well as others dealing with worker safety. This is a way corporations use to derail important new rules and standards. This bill comes from the American Legislative Exchange Council, a Koch brothers founded organization that is a right-wing corporate front. It is also based on Governor Christie's Red Tape Review Commission, which was used by Chris Christie under the name of streamlining to dismantle decades of environmental protections and roll back key standards. This is not about simplifying procedures, it is about slowing down and weakening protections.

The Government Efficiency and Regulatory Review Commission would end up being a second version of Chris Christie's Red Tape Review Commission. Chris Christie used that Commission as a way to block DEP from regulating toxic chemicals in drinking water like PFAS and perchlorate. He also used it as an excuse to roll back protections on clean air, clean water, and pull out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

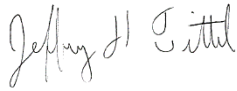
This bill is about taking care of corporate interests over public interests. It goes against Environmental Justice and will mean more pollution in areas that are already overburdened by pollution. This is even more concerning now that multiple studies have linked air pollution exposure to coronavirus risk. It will

also weaken health protections and worker safety regulations, which are more important than ever as people go back to work during the coronavirus pandemic.

We are concerned that this legislation will result in weaker environmental review standards, which means more pollution and more development. The Commission could also end up weakening health and worker safety protections, which are even more important than ever during the coronavirus pandemic. We are afraid that this Commission could come out with recommendations that lead to the privatization of parks, public-private partnerships, or streamlining permits by making them general permits. It could also be used to weaken site remediation standards and cleanups.

We ask that you protect our environmental, health, and worker protection regulations from being weakened by vetoing this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey H. Tittel".

Jeff Tittel, Director
New Jersey Sierra Club