

Government Affairs Report

Red Tape Review Group Re-Commissioned

In mid-October Executive Order #41 was signed establishing an ongoing bi-partisan Red Tape Review Commission. The original group was created during Governor Christie's transition into office last year, and continued to meet regularly, tackling some of the State's burdensome regulations throughout the spring. The newly organized group will replace the existing group, charged with making recommendations to the Governor for improving New Jersey's regulatory climate by providing periodic reports, and will serve as an additional resource to the Governor in an advisory role. The Red Tape Review Commission will be chaired by Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and also include state Senator Steven Oroho, state Senator Brian P. Stack, Assemblyman John Burzichelli, Assemblyman Scott Rumana, Somerset Mayor Brian D. Levine, Edward B. Deutsch and John Galandak. The Commission will ultimately seek to improve the State's business climate through the adoption of common-sense regulations. *BCANJ will monitor the group's activities and update members on issues relevant to our interests.*

Business Action Center Provides One-Stop Shopping for NJ Businesses

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno unveiled New Jersey's new Business Action Center (BAC) in mid-October during an open house at the Department of State. This "one-stop" center for businesses will provide assistance in a number of critical areas including financial incentives, regulations, and places to relocate and/or expand business. In addition, the BAC can answer direct questions about permitting, violation notices, land-use planning, trade consulting services and site-selection services. A highlight of the newly created center: it is designed to handle requests from any business regardless of which State department, authority or agency is responsible for it. To contact the newly formed BAC, call 866-534-7789, or visit www.NewJerseyBusiness.gov for online assistance.

Department of Environmental Protection's Transformation

In early October, the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Commissioner Bob Martin released a detailed transformation plan to make the department a more effective and responsive state agency. Ultimately this will translate into a smaller and more cost-effective agency that focuses on critical environmental issues without sacrificing standards. A criticism of the DEP, in previous years, has been the slow response time and the burden of having to navigate through the multi-layers of department staff. In order to combat this negative perception, one of the Commissioner's top priorities has been to require department staff to become more customer-friendly, and mandate customer service training. In addition to these changes, the DEP is analyzing its rulemaking policies. Changes will include making regulatory enforcement more flexible with input from various stakeholders affected by with the regulation. *For additional information on changes at the DEP, please contact the Association office.*

Casino Licensure Bill Advances

As you know from Bulletin #83-10, a BCANJ-supported initiative passed the full Senate that authorizes two new classifications for casino licensure. Under the newly passed legislation, developers would have the option of building a small-scale casino facility that would not have less than 200 sleeping units. The bill also allows for a staged-casino facility which will allow a developer to build a casino with a minimum of 200 sleeping units, but requires the staged-facility to expand to the current 500 sleeping unit mandate within five years. This legislation has the potential to yield numerous opportunities for contractors in an area of our State that continues to suffer enormous job losses in construction. The bill now heads to the Assembly for consideration.

BCANJ Hosts DPMC at Coffee Talk Series

On October 21, 2010, BCANJ hosted the NJ Division of Property Management and Construction for an information session on the Division's activities, upcoming projects and internal processes. Topics covered by DPMC leadership included the procurement and oversight of the design and construction of public building projects for New Jersey state departments. In addition, contractor public works prequalification and construction firm classification were discussed in detail. BCANJ will update members on our next "Coffee Talk" in the coming weeks.

Atlantic City Alliance Announced

Governor Christie has proposed an entire overhaul of Atlantic City's tourism industry, and has begun to see results through private-sector involvement. A new casino-run organization will represent private-sector industries in the region, with four casino companies

committing at least \$30 million annually to the Governor revitalization plan. The casinos made their announcement in late October with the creation of a non-profit organization called the Atlantic City Alliance. The group will dedicate these funds to establish a new and innovative marketing initiative. In addition, the group will implement a master plan for the Governor's proposed tourism district activities. *For more information, please contact the Association office.*

Election Results

With mid-term Congressional elections and several important state legislative races occurring on November 2nd, combined with a volatile political climate, November's election will be critical for both political parties. An election recap will appear in the next issue of BUILDING CONTRACTOR Magazine, scheduled for distribution in December.

Support BCANJ PAC

For many years, our supporters have generously donated to the BCANJ Political Action Committee (PAC) through the Souvenir Journal we publish in conjunction with our Annual Gala Dinner. As you know, BCANJ PAC funds are used to educate candidates for public office about the complex issues surrounding building construction and support candidates that share the BCANJ vision for raising the standards in construction. With the cancellation of this year's Annual Gala Dinner Dance and the Souvenir Journal, BCANJ PAC will suffer a loss of valuable revenue. We take this opportunity to encourage our supporters who are able to make contributions to BCANJ PAC to consider doing so. For your convenience, we've included a contribution form along with this update. Thank you for your continued support.

For more detailed information on federal and state government affairs initiatives, please contact Michael Travostino, Government Affairs Director at the BCANJ office:

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