



NEW JERSEY SENATE

STEPHEN M. SWEENEY
SENATE PRESIDENT

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March 16, 2020

New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce
216 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

New Jersey Business & Industry Association
10 West Lafayette Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey
S-212, 222 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey
220 Laurel Road, Suite 203
Voorhees Township, NJ 08043

Dear Friends and Partners:

I am deeply concerned with the recent reports of business owners threatening to lay off workers and cut hours due to the coronavirus. This is simply not the time to inflame the fears of the public.

The coronavirus outbreak has created an unprecedented international health care crisis that confronts all of us with unique challenges, including employers and employees throughout the State of New Jersey. There are many unknowns, but there is little doubt that we will be confronted with consequences that will impact public health and the way we live our daily lives. As I said late last week, we also must be prepared to address the economic implications of a crisis like this, and the effect it will have on your businesses and on your workers.

Our first priority is the health and safety of the public, but we should also be equipped to mitigate the economic and financial problems that are likely to occur.

We have a shared commitment to the people of New Jersey and our quality of life. We have a shared responsibility to protect the economic health of employers and the financial wellbeing of employees, especially those with more modest incomes. I have publicly stated how the State will



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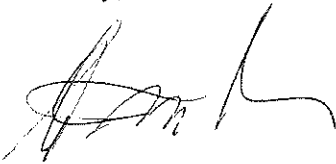
support the business community, but I want to urge you all to publicly pledge your commitment to your workers.

Our collective response will ultimately determine the impact of this pandemic. If we do not stand firmly with not only the businesses but the workers of this State, we will be taking a bad situation and making it worse. Massive layoffs and missed paychecks could lead to loan and mortgage defaults, unpaid rent, a slew of evictions and a rise in homelessness.

I don't have all the answers so I am asking for your help. We have to work together, trust each other and build on our decades of partnership in order to do what is best for every man, woman and child in New Jersey. We cannot do this without you, and I am counting on you to take care of your employees in every way possible through this crisis.

Please reach out to my office, day or night, with any ideas, concerns or actions we can take to keep New Jerseyans safe, healthy and financially stable. We can get through this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sweeney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Sweeney
Senate President