

ROBERT MENENDEZ
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January 26, 2009

Mr. William G. Dressel
Executive Director
New Jersey State League of Municipalities
222 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

Dear Mr. Dressel:

Thank you for sharing with me your thoughts and concerns regarding the economic recovery package as it relates to the tremendous needs facing New Jersey's municipalities. I appreciate the thorough list of projects you have compiled from the Municipal Stimulus Package Survey. Your survey certainly amplifies the urgent infrastructure needs facing our communities.

In New Jersey and across our nation, we need an effective economic recovery package. This government spending initiative must do the utmost to address the economic recession that has caused more than 34,000 job losses in New Jersey last year alone. As you may know, I have called for a recovery package that provides smart investments in the types of local projects and programs that create jobs, fuel our economy and help create the conditions for a quick turnaround as well as long term growth.

As the Congress prepares to consider the economic recovery package, I will do everything in my power to try to ensure that New Jersey's critical infrastructure, mass transit, and school construction and restoration needs are met. Last Congress, I authored the Energy Efficiency Block Grant program to help municipalities conserve energy. Investments in efficient and renewable energy technologies projects must also be an important aspect of the recovery package. I am also committed to families through middle class tax cuts.

I look forward to working on crafting a recovery package that will spur the economic growth needed to help our families and re-build the foundation of our municipalities, our state and our nation. Your input in this process is invaluable and I thank you for your work on behalf of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator