



*News From*

*U.S. Senator*

**Jon S. Corzine**

*New Jersey*

Press Release of Senator Corzine

## **Homeland Security Victory for New Jersey**

More federal funding to be risk-based

Friday, September 30, 2005

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senators Jon S. Corzine and Frank Lautenberg today released the following **statement in** reaction to news of the House-Senate Conference Report on Homeland Security appropriations. The **funding bill**, which provides funding for fiscal year 2006, allocates a greater amount of homeland security dollars based on risk than was the case in previous appropriations measures.

“We are pleased that House and Senate conferees have agreed to direct the majority of homeland security dollars for first responders based on risk. In the face of a very real and very dangerous terrorist threat, the only responsible course of action for Congress is to spend security dollars where they are most necessary. This represents a long-sought victory for New Jersey and for high risk areas across the country. And while there is more work to be done, this is an important first step. New Jersey and the nation will be better prepared and protected against the terrorists that would do us harm.

“Four years after September 11, however, a substantial portion of money to protect Americans is still **squandered** for political purposes. This is shortsighted and irresponsible. While today we have made an important stride, the Congress has still failed to put politics fully aside to protect the American people.

“Today marks a big victory. Nevertheless, we ought to honor the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and direct all Homeland Security funds based on risk and vulnerabilities. Congress must act with the seriousness that the threat demands.”

Restructuring homeland security funding was a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. “Homeland security assistance should be based strictly on an assessment of risks and vulnerabilities,” concluded the Commission. “Federal homeland security assistance should not remain a program for general revenue sharing. It should supplement state and local resources based on the risks or vulnerabilities that merit additional support. Congress should not use this money as a pork barrel.”

Critical vulnerabilities in New Jersey include the Ports of Philadelphia and Camden, bridges to Pennsylvania and Delaware, rail lines, bridges and tunnels to New York City, as well as chemical plants and nuclear facilities. Atlantic City has the second highest concentration of casinos in the country. Wall Street and other financial services firms house important front and back office operations, including clearance and settlement services, in Newark, Jersey City and Hoboken.

In the summer of 2004, Newark was one of three locations – including New York City and Washington, DC –

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that was placed on Orange Alert for a possible terrorist attack when intelligence suggested that the Prudential building in downtown Newark could be a target.

And the FBI has cited an area in Northern New Jersey as particularly vulnerable – calling the two-mile stretch the most dangerous two miles in America.

Senators Corzine and Lautenberg have long fought for more responsible homeland security spending. The lawmakers introduced legislation earlier this year to require homeland security grant programs to be based only on risk and vulnerability.

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