Gov. Florio, in Camden, hails groundbreaking for Campbell building

By Jodi Enda
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Gov. Florio said yesterday that the beginning of construction at the new Campbell Soup Co. headquarters in Camden marked a major step toward revitalizing the city and reviving New Jersey’s economy.

"If you ask how New Jersey works, the answer is right here in Camden," Florio said in a statement after the groundbreaking at the new headquarters building.

Florio, who attended the groundbreaking along with Mayor Aaron A. Thompson and Campbell Soup chairman David Johnson, said cooperation between government and corporations was "bringing a new vitality to nearly every corner of this proud city."

The $36 million office project, called the River's Edge Corporate Center, is adjacent to the soon-to-open Thomas H. Kean New Jersey State Aquarium on Camden's waterfront. Three buildings, constructed through a partnership between Campbell Soup and DKM Properties Corp. of Lawrenceville, are to include 700,000 square feet of office space.

The soup company's groundbreaking comes on the heels of another groundbreaking, this one for a $65 million GE Aerospace complex being built on the site of the old Campbell Soup plant.

Although development along the Delaware River is expected to include $600 million in investment and 2,500 jobs, some Camden residents have questioned whether many new positions will be open to them.

Florio expressed optimism yesterday.

“This building is about jobs — about the jobs we create today in construction and the people Campbell's will employ here when the building is finished," he said. "Good things are happening here."