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DeCROCE SAYS CORZINE CAN'T 'STRETCH' THE TRUTH: NEW LABOR STATISTICS SHOW NJ IS BLEEDING JOBS

By ROBERT A. DESANDO

Assembly Republican Leader Alex DeCrocce said today that newly released figures from the state Department of Labor prove conclusively that New Jersey is "bleeding jobs" and Gov. Jon Corzine's claim that his economic policies are creating more private sector jobs is false.

"The governor may want to 'stretch' the truth, but the inescapable fact is that New Jersey's unemployment rate is climbing every month and what is most disturbing is that private sector jobs fell another 12,000 in the past month," said DeCrocce, R-Morris and Passaic. "Total unemployment has now reached 9.8 percent, the worst it has been in decades, and shows no signs of abating.

"How can Corzine boast about the supposed success of his economic recovery plan when figures from his own Department of Labor clearly show otherwise? I don't know what world he's living in, but when statistics show New Jersey has lost 121,200 private sector jobs so far this year, I would call that an unmitigated disaster."

Published reports have revealed that Corzine's deputy chief of staff sent a message to cabinet officers earlier this month urging them to stage

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events that convey the impression the governor's economic recovery efforts are "already working" and "creating and retaining jobs" even though "it might be a stretch."

"The governor can stage as many media events as he likes," said DeCroce. "He can try his best to convince people his administration is creating jobs. But numbers don't lie, and they tell a different story."

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