

K- Binder

REMARKS OF
THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. KEAN
GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY
AT THE
JOINT SIGNING OF WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION
HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY
AUGUST 2, 1984

THANK YOU, ALAN (SAGNER).

GOVERNOR CUOMO, SENATOR BRADLEY, MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATURE, FRIENDS: GOOD MORNING.

I HAVE WITH ME HERE THIS MORNING A FRIEND. A
COUNTERPART. A COLLEAGUE.

HIS PRESENCE HERE TODAY, AND MY PLANS TO TRAVEL ACROSS
THE RIVER IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS, ARE MORE THAN SYMBOLIC.
THEY UNDERLINE WHAT IS TO ME A VERY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC FACT
OF LIFE ABOUT THE STATES WE REPRESENT.

MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE OFTEN SPEAKS OF HIS STATE, NEW
YORK, AS A FAMILY.

AND AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, HE DOES IT ELOQUENTLY AND SOMETIMES MOVINGLY. HE CERTAINLY HAS MADE ME THINK ABOUT HIS STATE, ABOUT MY STATE, ABOUT HOW THE TWO RELATE, ABOUT THE SQUABBLES THAT WE REPORTEDLY HAVE.

THE CONCLUSION THAT I HAVE COME TO -- AND THAT GOVERNOR CUOMO'S WILLINGNESS TO COME HERE TODAY ILLUSTRATES -- IS THAT THIS REGION IS A FAMILY.

WE MAY HAVE MINOR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON SOME ISSUES. WE MAY EVEN COMPETE OCCASIONALLY LIKE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS DO.

BUT ULTIMATELY, OUR FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE THE SAME. OUR FATES OUR INEXTRICABLY BOUND. AND TRY AS WE MIGHT, WE ARE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY FROM EACH OTHER.

THE HUGE HUMAN FAMILY THAT MAKES UP THE NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY METROPOLITAN AREA DEPENDS ON EACH OTHER, AND WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TODAY, WITH GOVERNOR CUOMO HERE, IS THAT IT IS FAR EASIER TO WORK TOGETHER THAN TO WORK APART.

OUR FAMILY WILL BE FAR STRONGER IF WE COOPERATE THAN IF WE BICKER.

THE BILL WE ARE SIGNING TODAY IS AN EXERCISE IN COOPERATION. IT IS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THIS REGION'S FUTURE. AND IT BODES WELL FOR THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF OUR FAMILY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

LAST SUMMER, GOVERNOR CUOMO AND I ANNOUNCED A SWEEPING AGREEMENT TO HARNESS THE RESOURCES OF ONE OF THE REGION'S MOST FORMIDABLE ASSETS: THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY. THE IDEA WAS TO PUT THE CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES OF THE PORT AUTHORITY TO WORK IN CREATING JOBS IN BOTH STATES.

THE BILL I AM ABOUT TO SIGN APPLIES THAT SAME CENTRAL IDEA TO REALITY -- TO THE REALITY OF THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF UNDERUSED OR DETERIORATING PROPERTY LINING THE WATERFRONT OF BOTH STATES. TO THE REALITY OF OPPORTUNITY THAT CHARACTERIZES THIS SITE IN HOBOKEN AND ITS COUNTERPART IN HUNTERS POINT. TO THE REALITY OF JOBS JUST WAITING TO HAPPEN HERE AND IN NEW YORK.

THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER CITIES ACROSS THIS COUNTRY -- FROM BOSTON TO OAKLAND, FROM BALTIMORE TO SAN DIEGO -- THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY REVITALIZED THEIR WATERFRONT AREAS. THEIR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTIVE.

IN ALL OF THESE CASES, IT WAS FOUND THAT PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN KEY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, IN SITE PREPARATION, IN PUBLIC ACCESS AMENITIES -- IN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT -- WAS A CRITICAL AND NECESSARY STEP IN TRIGGERING THE INVESTMENT OF PRIVATE CAPITAL.

THIS BILL BUILDS ON THAT LESSON. IT AUTHORIZES THE PORT AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE PROJECTS HERE AND IN HUNTERS POINT THAT WILL LEAD TO PRIVATE INVESTMENT. AND THAT WILL LEAD TO JOBS.

WHEN THESE PROJECTS ARE FINISHED, THEY WILL BE THE ENVY OF BOSTON AND OAKLAND, BALTIMORE AND SAN DIEGO.

OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT ALMOST 10,000 CONSTRUCTION JOBS AND ANOTHER 5,000 PERMANENT JOBS WILL BE CREATED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT. SIMILAR BENEFITS WILL COME WITH THE HUNTERS POINT PROJECT.

AND TODAY, WE ARE TAKING THE ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP TOWARD BRINGING THOSE JOBS TO HUDSON COUNTY. TO NEW JERSEY. TO THE REGION.

IN A FEW SHORT YEARS, THIS WATERFRONT CAN BE THE SITE OF AN ECONOMIC REBIRTH IN HUDSON COUNTY. WE ENVISION A MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT -- ONE THAT INCLUDES HOUSING, OFFICES, STORES, A MARINA, AND A HOTEL WITH CONFERENCE FACILITIES. THE TOTAL VALUE OF THIS PROJECT AND THE TANDEM HUNTERS POINT DEVELOPMENT WILL EXCEED \$1 BILLION.

THE INVESTMENT WILL BE THE PRODUCT OF A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. THE KIND OF PARTNERSHIP ABOUT WHICH CHAIRMAN SAGNER HAS JUST SPOKEN. THE KIND OF PARTNERSHIP THAT WE IN NEW JERSEY HAVE BEEN WORKING SO HARD TO CREATE DURING THESE LAST TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS.

WITH THE PATH CLEARED AND THE PLANS LAID BY THE PORT AUTHORITY'S INVESTMENT, THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL UNDERTAKE THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS FACILITIES AT THESE SITES.

BUT JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, IT REPRESENTS A DIFFERENT KIND OF PARTNERSHIP.

TODAY, I AM SIGNING AMENDMENTS TO MAKE OUR NEW JERSEY LEGISLATION IDENTICAL TO THAT PASSED BY THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE. IT PROVES WE CAN AGREE ON SOMETHING. IT DOES MORE THAN THAT -- IT PROVES WE CAN WORK TOGETHER.

AND BY WORKING TOGETHER, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CAN TURN THESE PROPERTIES IN HOBOKEN AND HUNTERS POINT FROM UNCUT STONES TO POLISHED JEWELS. FROM OLD PIERS THAT HISTORY HAS ABANDONED TO BRIGHT NEW BEACONS OF THE FUTURE.

THERE IS ONE MAN, OF COURSE, WHO HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE COOPERATION OF WHICH I JUST SPOKE. HE HAS SHEPHERDED THIS BILL THROUGH HIS STATE'S LEGISLATURE. HE HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY WITH ME TO USE THE GREAT POTENTIAL OF THIS REGION TO PLACE US WHERE WE BELONG -- AHEAD OF THE REST OF THE NATION.

HE IS A GUARDIAN AND A GUIDING INFLUENCE FOR THE REGIONAL FAMILY I MENTIONED EARLIER. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE GOVERNOR OF THE GREAT STATE OF NEW YORK: MARIO CUOMO.

THE PROCESS OF WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT HAS MANY ASPECTS. AT THE STATE LEVEL, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A NUMBER OF PROJECTS TO TURN THE PROMISE OF THE WATERFRONT INTO A REALITY: OUR DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS WORKING TO REMOVE DRIFT FROM THE HARBOR AND TO CREATE A PUBLIC WALKWAY ALONG THE ENTIRE WATERFRONT. MY OFFICE IS WORKING WITH OUR DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND NEW JERSEY TRANSIT TO DESIGN A PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM TO FULLY SERVE THIS GROWTH AREA.

I HAVE ESTABLISHED SPECIAL WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE -- WHOSE MEMBERS ARE HERE TODAY -- AND A GOVERNOR'S WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TO MAKE SURE THAT WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT GETS THE PRIORITY TREATMENT IT DESERVES AND TO COORDINATE ALL OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INITIATIVES UNDERWAY.

OUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFORT THROUGHOUT -- MOST RECENTLY BY WINNING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION WHICH AUTHORIZED THE TRANSFER OF THE HOBOKEN PIERS TO THE CITY OF HOBOKEN, CLEARING THE WAY FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO PROCEED.

WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE WITH US TODAY THE SPONSORS OF THAT LEGISLATION IN THE U.S. CONGRESS: SENATOR BILL BRADLEY AND CONGRESSMAN FRANK GUARINI.

AT THIS POINT, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, THE HONORABLE BILL BRADLEY:

FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS PROCESS, THERE HAS BEEN ONE KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHOSE PERSISTENCE, FAITH, AND COMMITMENT TO A BETTER CITY HAVE NEVER WAIVERED. WITHOUT HIS COOPERATION AND PERSEVERANCE, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE REACHED THE POINT WE ARE AT TODAY. LET ME INTRODUCE THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOBOKEN, THE HONORABLE STEVE CAPIELLO:

ANOTHER PERSISTENT ADVOCATE OF THIS PROJECT WAS THE CHIEF SPONSOR OF THE LEGISLATION I AM ABOUT TO SIGN. A FORMER SPEAKER OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY, AND LONG-TIME CHAMPION OF HUDSON COUNTY, SENATOR CHRIS JACKMAN.

SENATOR JACKMAN'S COLLEAGUE FROM THE 33RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT WAS THE CHIEF SPONSOR OF THE ORIGINAL LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE LAST YEAR, AND WAS THE CHIEF SPONSOR OF THESE AMENDMENTS IN THE NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY. ASSEMBLYMAN NICKY LAROCCA:

AND NOW, IF GOVERNOR CUOMO WILL JOIN ME, I WILL SIGN A LONG-AWAITED AND HISTORIC LAW.