

Fed
Rep.

December 13, 1976

Honorable James J. Florio
1725 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20215

Dear Jim:

I have your November 4, 1976 letter. No one applauds more than I the significant vote which Governor Carter attracted in the southern counties of our State. Your own reelection effort is likewise commendable.

I agree with you that those counties in South Jersey are entitled to recognition and representation in the formulation of Democratic Party policy. My own relationship with the Party leaders in South Jersey has been a warm and close one throughout the three years of my Administration. I have consistently sought their advice and I have traveled, perhaps more than any other Governor, in South Jersey to speak to both Party and non-party groups there.

We can take pride in our cooperative efforts on behalf of important programs and projects in South Jersey. My Administration has strongly supported the extension of the Lindenwold High Speed Line and other mass transit projects in the South. I have consistently urged the Federal government to delay oil drilling along our coast until adequate safeguards can be established. We authored pending State legislation that would tax offshore oil production to provide revenue for an oil spill compensation fund.

I have been a staunch proponent of casino gambling in Atlantic City. The support that you, other Party officials and I enunciated for the amendment helped assure its passage. The benefits of casino gambling to South Jersey will be immeasurable.

I can point to many other endeavors including the relaxation of pollution standards in South Jersey's high unemployment areas and support for the construction of the Veterans' Hospital in Camden. Again, I emphasize the cooperative spirit that has characterized my relationship with you and other State and Federal legislators from South Jersey. The impact of these legislative delegations has been substantial, both because of this close working relationship and the personal qualifications of our representatives.

I understand that you have expressed your views on the importance of South Jersey to State Democratic Chairman Jim Dugan. I am confident that he will be responsive. Please be assured that I am available at any time to discuss this with you or any of the County Chairmen from South Jersey.

Again, my congratulations on your own reelection. It is reassuring to know that our State is so well represented in the House.

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

JAMES J. FLORIO
1ST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



November 4, 1976

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SUBCOMMITTEE

The Honorable Brendan T. Byrne
Office of the Governor
State House
Trenton, N.J. 08625

Dear Governor Byrne:

As a result of Tuesday's general election, it can be fairly stated that the efforts of South Jersey Democrats, as in last year's Legislative election, have again been responsible for much of the success experienced by our party in New Jersey.

I think it is significant to note that President-elect Carter accumulated a majority of 93, 586 in the eight counties of South Jersey, while he was losing the State by 65,000 votes. Those counties include Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer and Salem.

Perhaps the most illustrative of the Democratic efforts in South Jersey is the result in the First Congressional District that I represent. This District, as you know, had been traditionally regarded as a Republican stronghold. My election in 1974 represented the first time that a Democrat had been elected to this Congressional seat in 102 years. However, that fact notwithstanding, this year I was re-elected by a majority of 80,000 carrying Camden County by 50,000 and traditionally Republican Gloucester County by 30,000---winning each and every municipality in that county.

It is therefore necessary, in my opinion, that South Jersey be provided recognition and representation in the formulation of Democratic party policy to a much greater extent than it has been in the past. The results of Tuesday's general election should and hopefully will bring to the attention of our State Democratic organization the importance of South Jersey Democrats.

As we go into the crucial year ahead, attempting to mobilize our party's efforts to retain control of the State House, it is imperative that the Democratic party statewide begin its preparation for this important undertaking. The recent election results highlight the absolute necessity of

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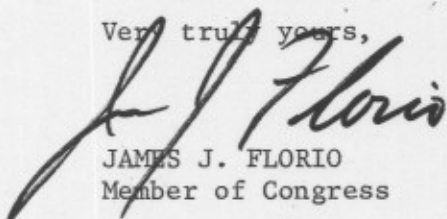
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including South Jersey as a full participant in the planning states so as to result in victory in the election of November 1977.

I look forward to cooperating with you as well as other South Jersey leaders in this effort.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. J. Florio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

JAMES J. FLORIO
Member of Congress

JJF/s

cc: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer and Salem County Democratic Chairmen