News From NJ Senate Democrats
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SMITH STATEMENT ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR AIR CONTROL
FUNDING

TRENTON - Senator Bob Smith, D-Middlesex and Somerset, the Chairman of the Senate
Environment Committee and a prime sponsor of a constitutional amendment which
would dedicate a portion of the Corporate Business Tax (CBT) to clean air programs in
New Jersey, issued the following statement regarding a public hearing held on the
amendment today:

"If approved by the Legislature, the voters of New Jersey may have the opportunity to
choose their own destiny when it comes to clean air funds as early as this November's
ballot. And given New Jersey's historically poor air quality and the need for change, the
decision should be an easy one to make.

"The constitutional amendment being proposed would set aside a larger portion of the
revenues collected from the CBT to help pay for air control programs and fund the State's
diesel emissions reduction program by retrofitting diesel engines to operate cleaner.
Considering the health risks of inaction, I think that most people will agree that these two
programs should be a funding priority, and a dedicated funding source is entirely in order.

"Polluted air accounts for hundreds of deaths and emergency room visits each year due to
respiratory illnesses such as chronic asthma, bronchitis and emphysema. It's also been
shown that poor air quality affects cardiac health, and medical research has shown an
increased incidence of heart disease and cardiac arrests in areas of high air toxic
concentration.

"New Jersey's background as an industrial magnet, and our status as a transportation hub
for goods for the rest of the nation, are catching up to us, and the fumes spewed by
manufacturing plants and diesel trucks are choking us out of our homes. We must take
action to remove air toxics from our skies and our lungs, and a constitutionally mandated
funding source, ratified by a vote of the people of New Jersey, is a necessary tool to
accomplish just that."

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