



The Delaware River and Bay Authority

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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DRBA Statement on Governor Christie's Veto of Two Authority Actions

The DRBA Commissioners expressed their concern and disappointment regarding the vetoes of Resolution 10-07 and Resolution 10-08 for expenditures over \$25,000 and a contract for legal services respectively. The Commissioners from both New Jersey and Delaware serve without compensation and take seriously their fiduciary responsibilities. They are committed to working with Governors Christie and Markell to avoid wasteful and excessive spending.

The actions of the DRBA Board of Commissioners comply in every respect with the rules and regulations governing this bi-state agency. These rules and regulations were adopted by the Board with the advise and consent of the Governors of both States. The DRBA Commissioners considered the items in question in open, advertised public committee meetings and monthly board meetings and were aware of the specific amounts concerning each vendor. These include expenses such as electricity and natural gas that are necessary to maintain a safe operation at our bridge, airports, and ferries. In addition, a representative from Governor Christie's Authorities unit was present at all these public meetings at the time these items were discussed.

Concerning the contract for legal services in New Jersey, the DRBA issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for first time in the history of the agency. Qualified legal firms submitted their qualifications with the understanding that the hourly rate for services would be capped at \$250.00. The Resolution in question does stipulate the term of the contract, which is three years with a one year option. The Board of Commissioners strictly followed Resolution 98-31, which governs procurement at this bi-state agency. Again, the information concerning process was provided to the Governor's Authorities unit to support this Resolution.

The DRBA Commissioners have consistently and diligently worked to stress accountability throughout the organization to insure that the user fees generated at the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Cape May – Lewes Ferry and all other operations are administered in the public's interest.

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