

# The Right Medicine

Earlier this week, Governor Corzine held a roundtable discussion with business and labor leaders to discuss the problems on Wall Street and their impact on New Jersey. It was a smart move. We have learned in the past that when Wall Street gets a cold, New Jersey does, too. And what happened these past weeks was a lot worse than a cold.

Many of those employed on Wall Street end each day by returning to their New Jersey homes. And an increasing number of “Wall Street jobs” are actually located on the New Jersey waterfront. While this crisis will impact the entire nation, Governor Corzine is right that it will impact our state more than most.

Following the roundtable, Governor Corzine declared that he had heard “loud and clear” that how we respond to energy issues could help with our current financial crisis. Specifically, that investments in energy efficiency and conservation – conducting energy audits, installing programmable thermostats, installing insulation and upgrading windows – can lower energy use, reduce energy bills and create jobs.

There are companies, like ours, that are ready and willing to make investments in the energy infrastructure of our business and residential customers.

New Jersey’s Energy Master Plan is near completion, reflecting years of hard work and input from people in and out of government.

It will outline how the state can balance its need for energy with its desire to reduce harmful carbon emissions that contribute to global warming.

It will also be a blueprint for large scale job creation.

In addition to energy efficiency and conservation, offshore wind farms can generate clean electricity and create a significant number of New Jersey-based jobs. Solar power can do the same.

The challenge now is to make sure that the Energy Master Plan is not a document

that gathers dust on the shelf, nor that the meeting this week was a one-time event. Governor Corzine has shown a willingness to work with business leaders to develop bold ideas.

State government, working with New Jersey businesses, needs to implement recommendations such as investing in energy efficiency – and take quick action

to create jobs and economic growth.

We do not have the luxury of time. Delays will put our state at risk. Rapid action can be the dose of medicine that we need to keep our state’s economy healthy.

*What’s your view? Please let us know at [Opinion@PSEG.com](mailto:Opinion@PSEG.com)*



***One cure for financial woes – investments in energy efficiency and conservation.***

