



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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April 25, 2019

The Honorable Stephen Sweeney
935 Kings Highway, Suite 400
West Deptford, NJ 08086

Re: Schools Development Authority Organization Change

Dear Senate President Sweeney:

Recent reports have raised questions and concerns about the New Jersey Schools Development Authority's operations. This includes allegations of replacing tenured staff with individuals related to current Authority leadership, a series of unplanned raises, hiring unqualified personnel, and an overall poor financial condition. This culminated in Lizette Delgado Polanco's resignation as chief executive officer.

For greater efficiency and oversight, I believe the SDA should be moved under the New Jersey Department of the Treasury's Division of Property Management and Construction, rather than being folded into the New Jersey Economic Development Authority or another authority. Not to mention, the SDA and EDA are already in shambles independently.

Placing the SDA into a department will make it more accountable to the administration and legislature while also making their budget more transparent. This is the right strategy because it is critical that we ensure the services provided by the SDA are offered in a professional and transparent manner.

I have attached a copy of the draft legislation to effectuate this, which I plan to introduce at the next quorum. I would greatly appreciate your support. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty Lou DeCroce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Betty" being particularly prominent.

Betty Lou DeCroce
Assemblywoman, 26th Legislative District