

May 11, 2015

SENATE BILL NO. 2791

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2791 without my approval.

This bill would amend the Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to allocate one-half of all environmental damage recoveries above \$50 million to the costs of remediation, restoration, and cleanup of natural resource damage. The remediation, restoration, and cleanup of natural resource damages are central to this administration's environmental protection initiative. This is evidenced by both the \$50 million dollars allocated for those purposes in 2015 directly from recoveries, and the \$334 million dollars appropriated overall to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, whose core mission is the protection of the air, waters, land, and natural and historic resources of the State to ensure continued public benefit.

I fully support the restoration and remediation of our natural resources. The protection and preservation of the ecological wonders of which New Jersey is so proud have always been critical considerations when weighing where New Jersey's limited budget dollars should be delivered, but there are always challenging decisions that must be made when balancing a complex State budget. The allocation determined as part of the collaborative State budget process strikes an appropriate balance between the environmental and fiscal needs of the citizens of New Jersey, and goes as far as possible to continue the restoration of the natural spaces and waterways our citizens enjoy.

Accordingly, I utilized my line-item veto to excise this language from the Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015 and here, likewise, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2791 without my approval.

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Christopher S. Porrino

Chief Counsel to the Governor