



Position Statement

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CCNJ OPPOSES SENATE BILL 1073 & ASSEMBLY BILL 2694

Senate Bill 1073 & Assembly Bill 2694 (Smith/McKeon) - *Authorizes Municipalities, Counties, And Certain Authorities To Establish Stormwater Utilities.*

The Chemistry Council of New Jersey (CCNJ) represents the interests of more than 50 manufacturers and 45 firms in the business of chemistry throughout New Jersey. CCNJ respectfully opposes Senate Bill 1073 and Assembly Bill 269, which are being considered today.

This bill(s) would allow for the creation of a new county or municipal bureaucracy to manage stormwater utilities. There is little debate that this state already has too many facets of government on the municipal, county and state levels. CCNJ believes, despite being permissive, that this legislation would add an entirely new layer of governmental oversight, with unlimited taxing authority.

It is CCNJ's position that the process established in the legislation is duplicative and burdensome on many of our member companies and other businesses throughout the state. Currently, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a Stormwater Management and Permitting program. The current program issues thousands of permits and fees associated with those permits. In certain cases, our member companies have been required by DEP to construct elaborate and expensive stormwater systems to meet their permit obligations.

We appreciate recent amendments to the legislation that would allow for a potential fee reduction for existing compliance. However, the amendments did not address that there is no cap or limit of what the new permit fees would be, nor what a potential credit would be in the legislation. This lack of clarity only adds greater financial uncertainty for our member companies.

If this legislation were to become law, companies will almost certainly face an increase in their operating expenses moving forward. If it is the goal to encourage business to locate or expand in New Jersey, then we respectfully request that you not to pass legislation that would create additional barriers and cost for New Jersey businesses.

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The Chemistry Council of New Jersey (CCNJ), founded in 1955, is the trade and advocacy organization representing the interests of more than 50 New Jersey manufacturers and 45 firms in the business of chemistry. Our membership consists of large and small companies that are part of New Jersey's chemical, pharmaceutical, consumer packaged goods, petroleum, flavor & fragrances and precious metals industries. The CCNJ is committed to a better quality of life through science.