



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**VINCE MAZZEO**  
ASSEMBLYMAN, 2ND DISTRICT  
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July 24, 2019

Honorable Phil Murphy  
Governor of the State of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

It has been over three weeks since the budget has been approved and Stockton University is still waiting for their \$4.6 million in funding. This promised revenue is not a luxury for Stockton; it is essential for their planned Phase Two expansion in Atlantic City. They already receive the least amount of funding per student of any of the senior public colleges or universities in New Jersey.

The clock is ticking. According to Stockton officials, if the funds are not unfrozen in the next two weeks, this massive project will have to be abandoned. Last year, we saw Stockton open its brand new campus in Atlantic City and it is has been vital to the recovery we are seeing in the city today. Phase Two will bring in hundreds of jobs during its construction and one hundred permanent jobs after completion. The lack of funding could jeopardize Atlantic City's resurgence and harm Atlantic County families and students.

Atlantic County has come too far in the last few years to go backwards because of frozen funding that has already been approved. The responsible budget you signed has over a billion dollars in surplus — even accounting for a difference in revenue projections, Stockton's funding is functionally a rounding error in the scheme of the entire state budget, yet would impact literally thousands of lives in Atlantic County. If the \$4.6 million in funding was good enough to sign into the budget without a line-item veto, it should be good enough to release to save this monumental project.

I look forward to your responsiveness on this crucial issue for Atlantic County residents.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Vince Mazzeo.

Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo

Handwritten signature of John Armato.

Assemblyman John Armato



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CC: Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver  
President Harvey Kesselman  
Jim Johnson  
George Helmy