



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

August 7, 2017

Walter Arsenault, Esq.
Executive Director
Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor
39 Broadway
New York, New York 10006

Dear Mr. Arsenault,

Today, I signed into law a bill that provides the Governors of New York and New Jersey the authority to veto any action, with limited exceptions, taken by the Commission. This measure ensures the Commission continues to effectively carry out its important investigation and licensing responsibilities with appropriate independence, and is more accountable to the public.

In 2015, I emphasized the imperative that the Commission work hand in hand with the State to improve port commerce and, to that end, called upon the Commission to modernize its practices. Since that time, however, the Commission has continued to expand its jurisdiction and allowed brief but damaging labor shortages in the Port. The Commission must embrace more efficient, transparent and cooperative approaches to its regulatory functions.

The measure I signed into law today will take effect upon the enactment of a similar law by the State of New York. In the interim, I direct the Commission to review and update, within 90 days, the By-Laws that govern the way substantive decisions are made. The Commission's By-Laws were last updated in 1975 and do not properly delineate the decision-making authority retained by the Commissioners and that which is delegated to the executive staff.

In addition, the By-Laws should be updated to provide for the proper recording and maintenance of meeting minutes, the conduct of regular financial audits, open public meetings and records, confidentiality, conflict of interest, procurement, rulemaking and employment procedures, among other things.

Please contact John Spinello, Director of the Governor's Authorities Unit, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Christie
Governor

- c. Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York
- Michael Murphy, Commissioner
- Ronald Goldstock, Commissioner
- Phoebe Soriel, General Counsel, Waterfront Commission
- John Spinello, Director, Governor's Authorities Unit