

11/26/2008- Congressman Sires Attends Press Conference on Infrastructure Improvements

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For immediate release

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(Jersey City, N.J.)- Today Congressman Sires attended a press conference with Governor Jon Corzine to announce Corzine's plan for \$2.8 billion in infrastructure improvements. The state-level infrastructure plan would increase funding to schools, bridges and roads, and also stimulate the economy and create as many as 26,000 jobs.

Investing in our infrastructure is critical to enhancing our economy, increasing the number of jobs in the area and improving the quality of life of our constituents. On the Federal level, for every \$1 billion spent in transportation infrastructure, 35,000 jobs are created, and long term improvements are made to our nation's infrastructure. For example, the Hudson Bergen Light Rail has spurred major economic growth in our area and created thousands of permanent jobs. Former industrial sites have been converted into new housing, office buildings, commercial property, and parks – estimated at more than \$6 billion worth of new construction.

In New Jersey alone, as many as 15,000 additional jobs can be created if a federal economic stimulus package includes money for highway projects. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Sires is fighting to include these vital transportation funds in the economic stimulus legislation.

“Infrastructure investments have the power to spur major economic growth; I simply cannot understate their importance to economic development to New Jersey” stated Congressman Sires.