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November 18, 2019

Via Hand Delivery

New Jersey Select Committee on Economic Growth Strategies Honorable Bob Smith, Chair Honorable Dawn Marie Addiego Honorable Nilsa Cruz-Perez Honorable Joseph A. Lagana Honorable Declan J. O'Scanlon Honorable Joseph Pennacchio

Re: Cooper University Health Care

Dear Honorable Senators:

On behalf of Cooper University Health Care ("Cooper"), I write to address various accusations made by the Governor's Task Force on EDA Tax Incentives ("Task Force") concerning Cooper's application for tax incentives under the Grow New Jersey Assistance Act ("Grow Program"). Prior to reviewing any of Cooper's records or giving Cooper a meaningful opportunity to explain any of the facts or issues surrounding its application, the Task Force issued its First Published Report on June 17, 2019 ("Report"), accusing Cooper of lying to the EDA and claiming that Cooper was not entitled to its tax credits. *Ex. A.* The Task Force is wrong.

In making its accusations the Task Force made fundamental errors of law in interpreting the Grow Program statute, and omitted all of the facts that prove the falsity of its claims. Not only are the Task Force's baseless claims causing reputational damage to Cooper, but the accusations are now being used by the EDA to wrongfully "freeze" Cooper's tax credits even though the EDA itself has apparently conceded that the Task Force's legal conclusions were wrong.

The charge of this Committee includes examining the impact of delayed tax incentives, the expiration of existing tax incentive programs, and the overall impact of tax incentives on the economy. In order to enable the Committee to fulfill its mandate, Cooper respectfully submits to you the relevant history of the Grow Program, information concerning the Cooper application, and an explanation of the harm that is being unjustly inflicted on Cooper by the Task Force.



I. The Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 did not require Camden applicants to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state, and the Task Force was wrong to conclude otherwise.

A fundamental feature of the false and erroneous accusation from the Task Force is whether applicants considering a project in Camden needed to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state. Prior to the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013, L. 2013, c. 161 ("2013 Act"), the "at risk" showing was indeed required for all applicants. See L. 2011, c. 149, § 3 (N.J.S.A. 34:1B-244).

The 2013 Act recognized, however, that the financial plight of the City of Camden was unique, and in order to attract jobs to the distressed municipality, the Legislature decided to implement different standards for Camden. The amendments under the 2013 Act thus said that "in satisfaction" of the "at risk" requirement, Camden applicants instead needed only demonstrate that the award of tax credits was a "material factor" in the business's decision to move forward with the project. N.J.S.A. 34:1B-244(d).

As the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee—of which Senator Pennacchio was then a member—explained when it added this language at its hearing on June 25, 2013, the intent was to "exempt" Camden applicants from the "at risk" requirement that applied to other municipalities. See Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Statement to First Reprint of A. 3680 (June 25, 2013) at 4. Governor Christie likewise commented that a central feature of the new law was to "lower program eligibility thresholds for" Camden. See Governor's Conditional Veto to First Reprint of A. 3680 (Sept. 9, 2013). The plain language chosen by the Legislature in the 2013 Act, and the surrounding history leading up to that language, all confirm that applicants proposing a Camden project were "exempt" from the "at risk" requirement.

Hence, the 2013 Act made the "at risk" requirement irrelevant for Camden applicants. However, the Task Force wrongfully concluded that Cooper was legally required to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk" of leaving New Jersey. Therefore, the Task Force accusation that Cooper obtained a benefit to which it was not legally entitled is completely false. *Ex. A.* Cooper responded to that faulty conclusion on July 8, 2019, explaining in detail why the Task Force was wrong. *Ex. B.*

Initially, the Task Force and the EDA were on record concluding that the "at risk" requirement applied "even where an application proposes to move jobs intrastate from a city outside of Camden to Camden." *Ex. C.* However on October 17, 2019, the Task Force and EDA (in the Task Force's fourth public meeting) agreed with Cooper's position that the "at risk" requirement did NOT apply to Camden applicants. Therefore, the crux of the Task Force's case that Cooper had to show its jobs were at risk of leaving New Jersey for its award is simply wrong, as both the Task Force and the EDA now admit. Yet the Task Force has refused "publicly to admit that it erred" when it accused Cooper of fraud, preferring instead to leave a cloud hanging over the organization.

¹ Task Force on EDA's Tax Incentives Fourth Public Hearing, available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHZu0EJLfNc. The relevant testimony begins approximately twelve minutes into the hearing.



II. Cooper never certified that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state as part of its Grow Program application, and the Task Force was wrong to allege otherwise.

After the 2013 Act was signed into law on September 18, 2013, Cooper began to consider whether it should undertake a project to consolidate jobs in Camden and avail itself of the new tax incentives. Cooper identified the L3 building in Camden as an attractive location for this move, provided Cooper received tax credits to help offset the expenses and disruption associated with the relocation. The receipt of the tax credits was certainly a "material factor" in Cooper's decision to move forward with the Camden project.

On November 7, 2014, Cooper submitted its application to the EDA under the Grow Program. In its certified application, Cooper accurately stated in each instance that jobs were not "at risk" of leaving the state, and that New Jersey was not in competition with any other state for Cooper's project. Ex. D. Contemporaneous communications with an EDA staff member who had been advising on Cooper's application up through that time confirm that he did not believe that Cooper needed to demonstrate that its jobs were "at risk"—Cooper instead needed to satisfy the "material factor" test. See Ex. E (asking Cooper to provide a cost benefit analysis comparing L3 with its existing New Jersey locations, and making no mention of a comparison to an out-of-state alternative).

For its own reasons, on November 13, 2014, the EDA contacted Cooper and, for the first time, requested information on an out-of-state location. In a contemporaneous email dated the very next day, a Cooper employee told his supervisor that the EDA asked Cooper for "a comp from out of state" to support Cooper's application. *Ex. F*.

Though the EDA's request was legally irrelevant under the 2013 Act, Cooper nevertheless complied in good faith to satisfy the governmental entity's request. As demonstrated by contemporaneous internal Cooper emails, Cooper understood that the EDA wanted "a credible location that is LESS expensive than L3." *Ex. G*. This "credible" alternative to Camden was deemed something that the EDA wanted as part of its underwriting review. Cooper employees voiced that this was not a real search for an alternative location, because there was "no probability" of Cooper actually moving to Philadelphia. *Ex. G*.

In gathering this information to respond to the EDA's request, Cooper asked that its business partners handle the matter "quietly" so as not to confuse anyone into thinking that it was moving any jobs out the state. *Ex. G.* While Cooper supplied the requested "comp" to the EDA per its request, *at no time* did Cooper amend its certified application to claim that jobs were "at risk."

III. The EDA was on clear notice that Cooper never intended to leave New Jersey.

In falsely accusing Cooper of malfeasance, the Task Force claimed that Cooper somehow "tricked the EDA" into thinking that its jobs were actually "at risk." This claim is readily refuted by the evidence.

Cooper includes with this letter <u>every written correspondence</u> it ever had with the EDA about the requested out-of-state "comp." *Ex. H.* The transmittal emails demonstrate: (i) Cooper told the EDA that it had never even seen a Philadelphia location prior to submitting its revised cost benefit analysis, (ii) that all prices from Philadelphia landlords were oral, and (iii) that Cooper had not even visited a Philadelphia building until just days before the EDA board meeting, and was only obtaining a written letter of intent because the EDA specifically asked that Cooper do so.



Indeed, as even the Task Force concluded, Cooper never changed its certified application. The Task Force pointed to no document—certified or otherwise—wherein Cooper ever stated that its jobs were at risk of leaving the state. Given the above evidence and the fact that the EDA asked for out of state "comp" information, it is completely inconceivable that the professionals at the EDA could have ever believed that Cooper intended to move any jobs out of state. Anything to the contrary is simply not true.

The Task Force further asserted in its Report that Cooper's tax credit award was too high (and that Cooper was only entitled to a fraction of the award it received) since none of Cooper's jobs were at risk of leaving New Jersey. Although the Task Force did not explain the logic for its "revised calculation," one can only conclude that the Task Force inaccurately and inappropriately applied 2017 regulations instead of the applicable law that was in force in 2014. Hence, the calculation and amount of Cooper's 2014 tax credit award was and is accurate, appropriate and correct.

IV. Cooper's tax incentives have been wrongfully "frozen".

Despite the fact that Cooper has exceeded all of its obligations under its Grow Program contract with the EDA, the EDA still has not released Cooper's most recent tax credits. Cooper has explained to the Task Force and the EDA the facts around the Philadelphia location submitted in 2014, and yet the EDA continues to hold Cooper's tax credits in abeyance seemingly because of some vague, lingering concerns caused by the Task Force's debunked accusations. Holding up a nonprofit hospital's incentive credits under these circumstances is an offensive abuse of the public's trust in its government. This is particularly true given the fact that the only reason Cooper ever submitted any information on out-of-state properties in the first place was because it was trying in good faith to comply with the EDA's (legally irrelevant) requests during the underwriting process.

Cooper respectfully submits that the harm caused by the Task Force's and the EDA's actions extend well beyond Cooper. Vilifying companies that lawfully avail themselves to tax incentives, and withholding those incentive payments indefinitely based on faulty legal analyses and disproved factual allegations stemming from the EDA's own mistakes, only serves to dissuade other companies from investing in New Jersey. Cooper has been a stalwart supporter of Camden for over a century and a leader in the city's renaissance, and fears that the recent actions by the Task Force will cause immeasurable harm to both Camden and New Jersey for decades to come.

Cooper thanks the Committee for its time and attention in considering the enclosed information, and the important work that it is conducting for the taxpayers of the state. We look forward to the Committee reviewing this matter and putting an end to this shameful chapter of New Jersey politics.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Patrick Murphy

Senior Vice President and General Cours

The Cooper Health System's Grow New Jersey Application

Background

- After the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 was passed, Cooper considered moving employees to Camden because potential tax credits made if financially feasible to do so.
- Cooper identified the L3 building as an attractive option and arranged to lease the second floor of the building after it received its tax credits.

Cooper did not need to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state

- The Task Force incorrectly assumed that Cooper needed to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk" of leaving New Jersey for Cooper to be eligible under the Grow Program.
- The Task Force was wrong. The law only requires that the award of tax credits be a "material factor" in the decision to move to Camden.
- Consistent with the legal requirements, Cooper submitted a certified application to the EDA stating that no jobs were "at risk" of leaving New Jersey.
- Cooper never changed its application or its certification to reflect anything otherwise.

The EDA asked for "a comp from out of state"

- After the EDA received Cooper's application on November 7, 2014, the EDA "asked for a comp from out of state" to support the submission.
- The information was legally irrelevant under the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013, but Cooper nevertheless complied in good faith to satisfy the EDA's request.

The EDA was on notice that Cooper was not actually planning to leave New Jersey

- Cooper never misled the EDA.
- Cooper consistently and accurately conveyed to the EDA that it had no intention of moving employees out of state, and that it was providing the out-of-state "comp" to satisfy the EDA's request during the underwriting process.
- Cooper has been in Camden for 130 years and no one at the EDA ever could have reasonably believed that it was moving to another state.

Cooper's tax credits have been wrongfully "frozen"

- Cooper has exceeded all of its contractual obligations under its Grow Program contract with the EDA, but the EDA still has not released Cooper's tax credits.
- Vilifying companies that lawfully avail themselves of tax incentives only serves to dissuade other companies from investing in New Jersey in the future.

EXHIBIT A



PHILIP D. MURPHY *Governor*

Governor's Task Force on EDA Tax Incentives

Established Pursuant to Executive Order No. 52 (Murphy)

First Published Report

Ronald K. Chen *Chairman*

Walden Macht & Haran LLP Quiñones Law, PLLC Special Counsel

June 17, 2019



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Task Force on the Economic Development Authority's Tax Incentives (the "Task Force") is an advisory body and, pursuant to its mandate, submits this first report (the "First Report") to advise the Governor of its initial findings and recommendations.

In January 2018, Governor Philip D. Murphy directed the Office of the State Comptroller to conduct a comprehensive performance audit of the Grow New Jersey Assistance Act ("Grow NJ") and Economic Redevelopment and Growth ("ERG") tax-incentive programs (each a "Program" and together, the "Programs"), and predecessor programs, from 2010 forward, to "inform the public about the EDA's operations" and "assist lawmakers in their deliberations as to whether these programs should be reauthorized when they expire on July 1, 2019." On January 9, 2019, New Jersey State Comptroller Philip J. Degnan (the "Comptroller") issued his audit report of the State's tax-incentive programs. The Comptroller's audit report revealed, among other things, that the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (the "EDA") had failed to comply with the applicable statutes and regulations and to implement key internal controls for monitoring the performance of tax-incentive beneficiaries.

In response to the Comptroller's audit report, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 52, which established this Task Force with the following objectives:

- 1. Conduct an in-depth examination of the deficiencies in the design, implementation, and oversight of Grow NJ and the ERG tax-incentive programs, including those identified in the Comptroller's audit report, to inform consideration regarding the planning, development and execution of any future structure of these or similar tax-incentive programs; and
- 2. Hold public hearings and request testimony from individuals who can provide insight into the design, implementation, and oversight of these programs.

The Task Force has been authorized to call upon any department, office, division or agency of the State to supply it with data and any other information or assistance available to such agency as the Task Force deems necessary to execute its duties. Each State agency also has been required to timely cooperate with the Task Force. In addition, Governor Murphy appointed Professor Ronald Chen, as the Chairman of the Task Force, to "perform all of the functions of a duly authorized representative of the Governor" pursuant to N.J. Stat. § 52:15-7, including the ability to "subpoena"

¹ A Performance Audit of Selected State Tax Incentive Programs, Jan. 9, 2019.

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and enforce the attendance of witnesses." The Task Force has generally sought, in the first instance, to obtain information through witnesses' voluntary cooperation, but has also relied upon Professor Chen's subpoena power where necessary.

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As described in more detail below, to fulfill its mandate, the Task Force has collected and reviewed thousands of documents—obtained from the EDA and other agencies, from companies awarded benefits under the Programs, and from other parties—and conducted 28 interviews to date. These interviews have included former and current EDA personnel and other government employees, as well as other parties with knowledge of or information about the design and administration of the Programs.³ The Task Force has also interviewed several policy experts to provide insight on the structure and features of New Jersey's tax-incentive programs.

Although the Task Force's mandate encompasses both the Grow NJ and ERG programs, its investigation to date has focused primarily on Grow NJ. The Task Force's investigation is ongoing, and it intends to address ERG, as well as other aspects of Grow NJ, in later reports.

Given its mandate of examining the "design, implementation, and oversight" of the tax incentive programs, the Task Force began its analysis by dividing its efforts into two separate but related areas. In the first, it focused on the Programs' legislative underpinnings, examining factors relating to the design of the Programs, including whether special interests played a role in the statutory provisions. In the second, the Task Force focused on the EDA's implementation of the statutes and on its administration of the Programs. This included focus on examining the EDA's review and diligence over program applications to determine whether the EDA was employing meaningful scrutiny of those applications.

Although there is necessarily crossover among the issues encountered in these separate investigative areas, this investigative structure has enabled the Task Force to most efficiently and comprehensively examine the Programs. The description of our findings below follows this general investigative structure. The Task Force's findings are based upon the information available to the Task Force as of this date and are subject to further revision as the Task Force's investigation proceeds and additional information becomes available. In sum, the Task Force has found as follows:

² See March 22, 2019 Letter from Governor Murphy to Professor Chen.

³ We do not name EDA staff referenced herein, but we do name certain EDA senior managers.



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A. Special Interests, Which Prioritized Benefits to Private Parties Rather than the State, Had a Significant Impact on the Design of the Grow NJ Statutes and Regulations

With respect to the design of the statute, special interests—in the form of a law and lobbying firm and the clients on whose behalf it apparently operated—appear to have had a significant impact on the design of the Grow NJ statute as amended by the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 (or "EOA 2013") and its implementing regulations. As a result of those special interests, EOA 2013 was—in several ways—structured to favor certain parties while disfavoring others in certain respects. For example, a statutory provision related to grocery stores in Camden appears to have been drafted to permit a particular grocery store to obtain tax incentives, while prohibiting a competitor grocery store from obtaining such benefits. Although neither grocery store ultimately opened in Camden, the drafts of this provision highlight the significant and, in the Task Force's view, inappropriate role special interests played in crafting the statute.

In addition, the Grow NJ program was dramatically expanded by EOA 2013 in numerous respects. Principal among these amendments were provisions that allowed projects in Camden—where many of the law firm's clients had business interests—to receive awards far in excess of what would have been possible in other parts of the State. Unlike the requirements applicable in other parts of the State that Grow NJ awards be anticipated to result in a net positive benefit to the State in terms of new tax revenue, these large awards for projects in Camden could be based on "phantom" taxes that would never actually accrue and thus might not result in a gain to the public fisc.

B. The EDA Did Not Have Adequate Procedures in Place to Ensure That It Discovered Relevant Information, Including Applicant Misstatements, That Would Have Led to Rejection of Some Applications or a Significant Reduction in the Amount of Certain Awards

With respect to the administration of the Programs, the EDA had only a few formal written policies and procedures to provide guidance to the EDA employees tasked with reviewing companies' applications for tax incentives. Even more troubling, the EDA lacked any formal training to ensure those same employees had a common understanding of Program requirements or clear rules for conducting due diligence on tax-incentive applications, which often involved awards of millions of dollars. This fundamental lack of controls led to important misunderstandings over threshold requirements for applications and inconsistency within the EDA in its evaluation and application of Program requirements—including confusion over even the basic level of scrutiny to be applied to applications, with some EDA employees viewing the vetting process as a "box

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checking" exercise, during which a company's factual assertions deserved deference, and other employees applying meaningful scrutiny.

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Relatedly, the EDA did not have any protocol or written standards for conducting research in connection with companies' applications for Program benefits. As a result, at least with respect to the applications the Task Force has investigated in detail thus far, some EDA employees conducted independent research to verify aspects of applicants' factual assertions and others failed to do so, even when relevant information was readily available. For example:

- A simple internet search revealed that one company, Holtec International, had been debarred by the Tennessee Valley Authority, even though Holtec said it had never been debarred in its Grow NJ application. Although such a debarment would have been grounds for the EDA to deny Holtec's application for tax incentives, the Task Force found no evidence that the EDA discovered Holtec's debarment. Apparently unaware of the debarment, the EDA ultimately approved Holtec for a \$260 million Grow NJ award.
- Another simple internet search revealed that three companies—Conner Strong & Buckelew Companies, LLC, The Michaels Organization, LLC, and NFI, L.P.—committed to move to Camden more than a year before submitting their applications for tax incentives, in which they claimed they were considering relocating to Pennsylvania as a potential alternative. Had the EDA's employees found this information, the EDA may have found these applications materially misleading, and denied an award on that basis. At a minimum, armed with this information, the EDA should have calculated these awards based only on new jobs moving to Camden from outside the State, and the awards to these three entities combined would have been reduced by over \$70 million.

⁴ As we discuss below in Section V(C)(4)(b)(i) of this First Report, we found evidence that the then-President and Chief Operating Officer of the EDA, Tim Lizura, should have reasonably known by September 24, 2015—thirteen months before these three companies applied for tax incentives under the Grow NJ program—that these applicants had committed to the Camden project. This meant that their certifications in their applications that jobs were "at risk" of leaving New Jersey were, at best, dubious. We found no evidence that Mr. Lizura shared this information with either the Business Development Officer or Underwriter responsible for these applications. We continue to investigate this issue.



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To date, our investigation has uncovered no evidence that the EDA intentionally ignored this information, but the failure to have strict guidelines for such research made these lapses possible. Indeed, in another instance, the EDA failed to follow up on red flags (that is, concerns or cause to follow-up) in the actual application materials submitted by the applicant itself. The Cooper Health System acknowledged in its initial application materials that no jobs were at risk of leaving New Jersey and it was not considering any out-of-state locations. The EDA subsequently accepted, without any skepticism or further diligence, Cooper Health's later claim that it was considering an out-of-state relocation, and approved Cooper Health for nearly \$40 million in tax incentives. The evidence shows otherwise. Had the EDA calculated Cooper Health's award based on its initial representation that no jobs were at risk of leaving the State, Cooper Health's award would have been approximately \$7 million—more than \$32 million lower than what it was awarded.

Although the Task Force's investigation is ongoing, below we make a number of recommendations for future legislation, as well as for the EDA's procedures in administering the Programs, based on its findings to date. By way of summary, those include:

- Designing any future legislation to ensure as much as possible that the public policy goals are applied neutrally, without favoring specific business interests;
- Assuring that persons or firms who represent tax-incentive applicants are properly registered as lobbyists under the New Jersey Legislative and Governmental Process Activities Disclosure Act;⁵
- Refraining from providing draft EDA regulations to people or firms that represent tax-incentive applicants outside the public notice-and-comment procedure under the New Jersey Administrative Procedure Act;⁶
- Taking steps to ensure that tax incentives are structured so that they result in a net gain to the State, or, if they do not, that fact is transparent;
- Ensuring that the language of any new legislation and implementing regulations more clearly sets forth the standards to be applied in determining eligibility for tax incentives;
- Strengthening the EDA's ability to withhold all or part of an award where a company has failed to meet its commitments, and ensuring that the EDA has sufficient data to fully evaluate a company's compliance with its incentive agreement;

⁵ N.J. Stat. § 52:13C-18 et seq.

⁶ N.J. Stat. § 52:14B-1 et seq.

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- Requiring the EDA to implement formal written policies and procedures governing all aspects of the Programs and their administration and to undertake to formally train its staff in how to review Program applications and monitor compliance;
- Requiring the EDA to use an experienced professional services firm to conduct a background check on each applicant and its affiliates and senior executives; and
- Strengthening the EDA's process for conducting diligence into an applicant's claim
 that it intends to locate out of state absent the award of tax incentives from New
 Jersey.

In addition to examining the design and administration of the Programs, the Task Force has established an accelerated recertification program, or "ARP," pursuant to which companies can voluntarily submit information to establish that they have been and remain in compliance with all Program requirements. We did this for two reasons: (1) we desired to streamline our work to focus on the most serious issues; and (2) if the EDA did an inadequate job vetting applications, but the applicant had business records to demonstrate its compliance with Program requirements, the EDA's oversight lapses for these applications would not have had a negative impact on the public fisc. Currently, 53 companies have pursued participation in the ARP.⁷

Finally, although our focus has been and shall remain on the EDA, our investigation necessarily involves a review of companies' tax-incentive applications to determine how the EDA administered the Grow NJ and ERG programs. As a corollary to our work, the Task Force has uncovered several instances where Program beneficiaries have—whether intentionally or not—failed to comply with Program requirements, either by submitting inaccurate information in their applications or by subsequently falling out of compliance. The Task Force has obtained some voluntary terminations of awards, and has referred others to the State Treasury or either law enforcement agencies, the EDA, or both, which may result in, among other things, steps to suspend or terminate these awards. The aggregate value of the awards that were either voluntarily terminated or may be subject to such suspension/termination actions exceeds \$500 million.

II. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMS

New Jersey currently has two principal tax-incentive programs: Grow NJ and ERG. A brief summary of both programs follows.

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⁷ Of these companies, the Task Force has identified several companies that present threshold issues, which must be resolved before the company can proceed with the ARP. The Task Force is working with these companies to obtain additional information before it makes a final decision regarding their participation in the ARP.



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Grow NJ is generally intended to incentivize the creation of new jobs in the State or the retention of existing jobs that, absent the provision of tax incentives, would be eliminated or relocated outside New Jersey. To qualify for tax incentives under Grow NJ, a company must agree to make a minimum capital investment in a business facility—for example, the company may construct a new office building or rent new office space—at which the company agrees to create a minimum number of new jobs or retain a minimum number of existing jobs that, absent the tax incentives, would be eliminated or relocated out of state. The Grow NJ program is intended to incentivize a company's capital investment and job creation or retention, together often referred to as a "project" by the company To qualify for the tax incentives, the company is usually required to demonstrate that, unless the incentives are provided (in the language of the statute, "but for" the incentives), the company's jobs would be eliminated or located outside New Jersey.

ERG is generally intended to incentivize commercial and residential real estate development in qualifying locations in the State. To qualify for tax incentives under ERG, applicants are required to demonstrate a project financing gap—the costs that remain to be financed after accounting for all other sources of capital. ¹⁰

The Task Force's investigation to date has focused on the Grow NJ program.

III. INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

In this initial phase of its investigation, the Task Force sought to go beyond the scope of the Comptroller's audit as required by Executive Order No. 52. To that end, the Task Force sought to examine the design of the Programs and, further, to identify and investigate internal-control deficiencies in the EDA's administration and implementation of the Programs. To accomplish these aims, the Task Force established an investigative process for two separate, but related, work streams:

A. First Work Stream: The Design of the Tax-Incentive Programs

To carry out its examination of the design of the Programs, the Task Force needed to examine the history of the statutes relevant to the Programs. These statutes included:

⁹ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(d). The statute has different provisions that apply to projects in Camden and Atlantic City, which replace the "but for" test that is applicable in other parts of the State with an alternative "material factor" test. These provisions are discussed below.

⁸ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a).

¹⁰ See N.J. Stat. §§ 52:27D-489e, 52:27D-489c ("project financing gap" definition).



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• The New Jersey Economic Development Authority Act, which in 1974 created the EDA as a state governmental agency and defined its authority. 11

- The New Jersey Economic Stimulus Act of 2009 (the "ERG Act"), which created the ERG program in 2009, to be administered by the EDA. 12
- The Grow New Jersey Assistance Act (the "Grow NJ Act"), which created the Grow NJ program in 2012, also to be administered by the EDA. ¹³
- The New Jersey Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 ("EOA 2013"), which significantly revamped and expanded both the Grow NJ and ERG programs in 2013.¹⁴
- Multiple subsequent statutory amendments that revised the Grow NJ and ERG programs in relatively more minor ways between 2013 and the present.

Since the Governor's investigatory power is limited to the Executive Branch, ¹⁵ the Task Force did not affirmatively investigate the Legislature itself or its passage of these statutes, beyond what is available in the public domain. However, the statutes collectively create and define the Programs and, in addition, set out the parameters of the EDA's lawful discretion in its administration of them. As such, it is both within the Task Force's mandate—and necessary to the Task Force's mission—to analyze all pertinent aspects of the controlling statutory design, as embodied in the relevant statutes.

The Task Force began its analysis of the statutory design and history with publicly available documents, including the current versions of the statutes themselves and proposed and enacted bills and legislative statements. The Task Force also reviewed and analyzed certain non-public evidence bearing upon the statutory design. During the investigation, the Task Force obtained draft

¹¹ P.L. 1974, c. 80 (current version codified at N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-1 et seq.).

¹² P.L. 2009, c. 90 (current version codified at N.J. Stat. § 52:27D-489e et seq.).

¹³ P.L. 2011, c. 149 (current version codified at N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-242 et seq.).

¹⁴ P.L. 2013, c. 161.

¹⁵ N.J. Const., art. V, § 4, ¶ 5 ("The Governor may cause an investigation to be made of the conduct in office of any officer or employee who receives his compensation from the State of New Jersey, except a member, officer or employee of the Legislature or an officer elected by the Senate and General Assembly in joint meeting, or a judicial officer.").

¹⁶ These draft versions of the bill are attached as Exhibits 1 and 2. The current statutes, as well as proposed and enacted bills legislative statements, are available on the Legislature's website. *See* N.J. Legislature, https://www.njleg.state.nj.us.



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versions of the EOA 2013 bill dated June 21, 2013.¹⁷ The draft reflected revisions made in "track changes" mode and included metadata showing the author of each respective revision. The Task Force also acquired and analyzed a substantial number of documents from governmental sources, including the EDA. In many cases, these documents provided further evidence concerning relevant context surrounding the statutory design and the parties who impacted it.¹⁸ The Task Force also spoke to witnesses who provided context concerning the special interests that affected the statutory design in various respects.

Through review and analysis of these public and non-public materials, the Task Force acquired significant information concerning the design of the Programs and the limitations on the EDA's discretion in its administration of them. The Task Force received evidence demonstrating that the EDA opposed some of these statutory provisions and in certain instances advocated for alternative provisions. However, because they were enacted into law, the EDA was required to faithfully administer them, irrespective of whether they were justifiable as sound policy.

The Task Force also analyzed the design and history of the EDA's implementing regulations for the Programs. Like other governmental agencies tasked with the administration of government programs, the EDA is authorized by New Jersey law to promulgate regulations that interpret the statutes implemented by the agency, including the Grow NJ and ERG Acts. While agency regulations must be faithful to the laws they implement, they may provide additional rules beyond those expressly set out by the statutes—in this way, agency regulations serve to effectively "fill in the gaps" in the statutes. The New Jersey Administrative Procedure Act (the "APA") sets out certain procedures that New Jersey agencies, including the EDA, must follow when promulgating regulations. The APA requires a so-called "notice-and-comment" process in which agencies, before issuing final regulations with the force of law, must first provide the public with notice of the regulations they are considering and receive and consider comments from interested members

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¹⁷ One of these draft versions was in the EDA's files. In addition, the Task Force learned that a law firm likely had additional versions of the draft legislation. Although this firm initially promised full cooperation with the Task Force, it subsequently declined to produce these versions without a subpoena.

This investigation revealed that certain persons appeared to have engaged in unregistered lobbying in New Jersey, in apparent violation of the New Jersey Legislative and Governmental Process Activities Disclosure Act, N.J. Stat. § 52:13C-18 et seq. The Task Force referred this matter to appropriate law enforcement authorities, as previously disclosed.

¹⁹ See N.J. Stat. § 52:14B-1 et seq.



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of the public. The Task Force has investigated the EDA's processes in this respect, primarily through analysis of documents and information provided by the EDA.

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B. Second Work Stream: EDA's Administration of the Tax-Incentive Programs

To carry out its examination of the EDA's administration and implementation of the Programs, the Task Force established an Investigative Process to methodically identify, collect, review, and analyze pertinent information and data. The Task Force began by conducting a linear investigation of the Grow NJ and ERG application processes, from pre-application discussions through approval to annual certification and credit of the tax incentive awards. We examined these processes both by looking at the EDA's internal processes and files and by gathering information about, and from, the companies that were awarded incentives under the Programs. At the onset of our investigation, we met with Friedman Kaplan Seiler and Adelman LLP ("Friedman Kaplan"), counsel for the EDA to get an overview of the EDA's processes and procedures. We then deepened our understanding of the processes and applicants—and various issues with them—through interviews of relevant personnel (both from within the EDA and outside the EDA) and review of relevant documents. As discussed below, the initial scope naturally expanded as the Task Force acquired, reviewed, and analyzed relevant evidence bearing on the EDA's processes and individual companies.

1. Background Meetings

The Task Force requested to meet with the EDA, State Treasury, and the State Comptroller's Office immediately after its inception to better understand the interplay of various State agencies involved in the process. At the initial meeting referenced above, Friedman Kaplan provided a high-level overview of the application process from pre-application through certification of a tax-incentive grant. Friedman Kaplan has continued to work cooperatively with the Task Force to produce documents and information and to review and assess the internal processes and controls within the EDA as they relate to the tax-incentive programs.

The Task Force also met with members of the Treasury Department's Division of Taxation (the "Treasury"). The Treasury provided an overview of its role in the administration and implementation of the Programs. Beyond a general overview, Treasury explained the

²⁰ Although we have begun our investigation of the certification and credit-award processes, our investigation thus far has largely been focused on the earlier stages of the approval process.

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documentation, memoranda, and certifications it reviews and approves before awarding a tax credit to a Program applicant.

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The Task Force interviewed State Comptroller Philip Degnan and members of his audit team with the goal of obtaining a better understanding of the Comptroller's findings regarding the EDA's processes and procedures. Comptroller Degnan and his team provided an overview of their audit and findings and have continued to work collaboratively with the Task Force to provide information and offer consultation with respect to the Comptroller's audit.

The Task Force requested ongoing cooperation with the EDA and the State Comptroller's Office and for both entities to ensure that they were preserving relevant documents. The EDA, Treasury, and Comptroller's office have provided the Task Force with numerous documents in response to our requests. The bulk of the documents the Task Force has obtained have come from the EDA. Thus far, the Task Force has obtained over 1,069,789 pages of materials from the EDA and is continuing to conduct a strategic review of these materials.

2. Definition of Scope and Document Preservation and Collection

The Task Force worked collaboratively with the EDA to compile a list of all companies that have been certified to receive a Program award and did in fact receive a tax credit. Based on these parameters, there were 106 projects in the Task Force's initial scope. The Task Force subsequently expanded the scope of its investigation to include certain additional companies that had been approved for a tax-incentive award but that had not yet received tax credits. Those companies are discussed in more detail below.

a) Document Preservation and Company Outreach

The Task Force sent document preservation directive letters to companies that were identified as within its initial scope. The preservation notice informed the companies that the Task Force may seek information and documents relevant to the Programs and that the companies should take affirmative steps to ensure that all relevant documents would be preserved. To date, the Task Force has sent preservation letters to 116 companies. ²¹ In addition, the Task Force sent preservation notices to additional entities identified as related to Program applications and legislative design. In order to understand the EDA's review process for Program applications, the Task Force sought to identify what business records and documents existed, which would bear on company applications and certifications, even if the EDA chose not to request such documentation. The EDA has broad

²¹ This includes companies that did not fall within the Task Force's initial scope but were later added to the investigative work stream based on leads obtained during the investigation.

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authority to request additional information from applicants, ²² but did not use this express authority in every case.

The Task Force reached out to each company to confirm (a) that the company had received the preservation directive; and (b) that the company was taking requisite steps to comply with the directive. The Task Force made contact with a majority of the companies. However, there is still a small number of companies that have not been reached due to inaccurate contact information, dissolution of the company, or failure of the company to respond.

b) Refinement of Scope

In order to methodically review the EDA's oversight of Program applications, as discussed below in detail, the Task Force created an "accelerated recertification program" ("ARP"). In the ARP, the Task Force is providing companies an opportunity to demonstrate that they (a) are in compliance with the Programs and (b) applied for tax incentives in good faith. For companies that successfully recertify through the ARP, the Task Force has agreed not to request further documents or information.

The Task Force segregated processes for companies enrolled in the ARP from the remaining companies (the "Non-ARP Group"). As of the date of this report, there are 63 companies in the Non-ARP Group. For these companies, the Task Force is conducting a thorough investigation of the EDA's oversight of these applicants. We also interviewed a number of witnesses, who provided information concerning relevant misconduct by individuals associated with Program applicants.

The Task Force initially focused on Program applications where a "red flag" had been raised through our initial document review and interviews. In this regard, a draft of EOA 2013 edited by Parker McCay, a law and lobbying firm that represented several clients whose interests, as discussed below, were impacted by EOA 2013 played an important role in our focus. Because those drafts were edited by a private law and lobbying firm, which seemed to be adding special provisions to the bill to benefit particular clients, the Task Force viewed this as a serious "red flag" for those clients who certified that their jobs were "at risk" of leaving the State. The Task Force was skeptical that a client, on the one hand, would consult with their lawyer about—what amounted to—special legislation for their benefit but, on the other hand, was seriously considering a move

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²² See N.J. Admin. Code §§ 19:31-18:5 (Grow NJ) and 19:31-4.4 (ERG) (setting forth application submission requirements and providing that the EDA may request "any other necessary and relevant information as determined by the [EDA] for a specific application").



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out of the State knowing it could receive very significant awards through the inclusion of those provisions.

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c) Company and Third-Party Production of Documents

The Task Force has also obtained relevant documents from companies in the Non-ARP Group, from consultants and lawyers retained by companies in connection with their Program applications, and from additional parties with relevant information. The Task Force sought voluntary cooperation from all companies, individuals, and related entities, but when necessary, the Task Force recommended that Professor Chen issue subpoenas to obtain relevant documents.

3. Witness Interviews

In addition to the initial interviews described above, the Task Force has conducted numerous interviews of individuals relevant to is mandate. The Task Force has interviewed 12 current EDA employees. The employees interested were involved in the application pre-approval process at the officer, manager, and director levels as well as individuals in Human Resources, Operations and tax credit transfer positions. The Task Force has interviewed 2 former EDA employees who held senior leadership positions, Tim Lizura, the former President and Chief Operating Officer, and Maureen Hassett, ²³ a former Senior Vice President of Finance and Development.

The Task Force also reached out to non-EDA individuals and potential witnesses identified as having information relevant to the Programs or to award recipients. Thus far, the Task Force has interviewed 14 non-EDA witnesses.

IV. LEGISLATIVE FOCUS: THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TAX-INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

A. Initial Findings

As further discussed below, the draft versions of the EOA 2013 bill dated June 21, 2013, reviewed in conjunction with publicly available versions of the bill and other documents and information in the Task Force's possession, indicated that certain special interests played a key role in numerous provisions that were ultimately enacted into New Jersey law, and which, when administered by the EDA, would provide significant benefits to those special interests. Certain aspects of the Grow NJ program's design are difficult to justify from a rational policy perspective and can be understood only as the result of a process in which certain favored private parties were

²³ Ms. Hassett is currently working with the Treasury Department, but is still employed by the EDA.

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permitted to shape the legislation to their benefit—and further, in some cases, to disfavor potential competitors.

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The Task Force has found that the same special interests who successfully impacted the legislative design of the Programs were also afforded privileged status with respect to the Programs' implementing regulations. The EDA provided these special interests with early information about the regulations the agency was considering, prior to the notice provided to other members of the public, and permitted them to provide private feedback—which, in some instances, the EDA accepted and incorporated into the regulations. Moreover, the influence exerted by these special interests over this process was not disclosed to the public.

Thus, the Task Force's investigation to date has found that special interests succeeded in molding both the Programs' legislation and implementing regulations in their favor. The result is that New Jersey's tax-incentive programs have not been "neutral" in their design but have rather been structured in respects both large and small to favor the business interests of favored parties, sometimes in ways of debatable merit from a public policy standpoint. This is troubling for many reasons, including that the New Jersey Constitution contains certain prohibitions on "special legislation." These constitutional prohibitions, the New Jersey Supreme Court has explained, were intended to combat "the propensities of legislatures to indulge in favoritism." Given the findings discussed below, there may be reasonable questions as to whether New Jersey's current tax-incentive laws are compatible with constitutional requirements.

Some will certainly note that the problematic examples described below center on projects located in the City of Camden. The Task Force should not be misunderstood as disagreeing in any way about the desirability—indeed the necessity—of the State finding ways to encourage substantial reinvestment and growth in Camden, and in helping it meet the substantial challenges that it faces. Reinvestment in Camden has rightly been a priority for governors from both major political parties for decades. But as laudable as that *end* is, it does not necessarily justify, without any question or limitation, every conceivable *means* to accomplish it. "Shoehorning" the priority of *capital investment* in Camden in the Grow NJ program, the priority of which is the equally desirable but very different goal of *job growth*, has led to confusion in eligibility criteria, mismatched metrics of accountability, and lack of enforcement of the program requirements by the very agency that is responsible for monitoring it. Allocation of scarce public resources must inevitably involve some inquiry into the relationship, and resulting efficiency, between ends and

²⁵ Vreeland v. Byrne, 72 N.J. 292, 298 (1977).

²⁴ N.J. Const., art. IV, § VII, ¶¶ 7-9.

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means, and the absence of that logical nexus has been painfully evident in the course of the Task Force's work.

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1. Influence by Special Interests in Grow NJ's Legislative Design

The Grow NJ program was created in 2012 by the Grow NJ Act.²⁶ Compared to the version of Grow NJ that exists today, the original iteration of the program was relatively modest. Individually, the maximum awards available to program beneficiaries were far smaller than the maximum awards now possible under the current version of Grow NJ. Collectively, the original Grow NJ program provided a programmatic cap of up to \$200 million in tax credits that the EDA could approve.²⁷ The current version of Grow NJ, by contrast, has no such programmatic cap, which has allowed tax incentive approvals to balloon to the point that billions are now outstanding. Indeed, under the current version of Grow NJ, multiple companies have been individually approved for awards in excess of \$200 million in tax incentives, meaning that each of these companies by itself exceeded the maximum programmatic cap under the original iteration of the Grow NJ program.

The original version of Grow NJ existed for less than two years before it was significantly revamped and expanded by EOA 2013. The initial EOA 2013 bill was introduced in the New Jersey General Assembly on January 14, 2013 as Assembly Bill Number 3680. The Assembly passed the bill on May 20, 2013, and sent it to the Senate.

The Task Force has received evidence and information demonstrating that, during this period when EOA 2013 was before the Senate, certain special interests became involved in the drafting process—namely, the Parker McCay P.A. law and lobbying firm based in Mount Laurel, Hamilton, and Atlantic City, which drafted large swaths of the bill in various respects that appear to have been intended to benefit the firm's clients. Based on evidence and information in possession of the Task Force, Philip A. Norcross, Parker McCay's Managing Shareholder and Chief Executive Officer, and Kevin D. Sheehan, another partner of the firm, both worked on the drafting of the bill. Among other apparent intended beneficiaries of Parker McCay's drafting work was the Conner Strong & Buckelew insurance brokerage firm, headed by its Executive Chairman, George E. Norcross, III—the brother of Philip A. Norcross. Several years after EOA 2013 was enacted, on March 24, 2017, Conner Strong & Buckelew was approved for an \$86 million award to relocate its

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²⁶ P.L. 2011, c. 149.

²⁷ The EDA was also statutorily permitted to raise the programmatic cap if it would determine that doing so was "reasonable, justifiable, and appropriate."

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offices to Camden. An award of that size would have likely been impossible if not for statutory amendments that Parker McCay played a pivotal role in incorporating into the legislative design.

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The Task Force has received two Microsoft Word draft versions of the bill, both dated June 21, 2013—one draft dated several hours earlier than the other one—with revisions in "track changes" mode. The metadata in these documents appear to attribute many, but not all, of the revisions in the bill to Mr. Sheehan of Parker McCay.²⁸ In addition to this metadata, other documents and information in the Task Force's possession further corroborate that Mr. Sheehan, with the potential influence of Mr. Norcross, drafted these changes to the bill.

On June 24, 2013, the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee favorably reported its amended version of the bill, which incorporated many of the bill revisions that were drafted in whole or in part by Parker McCay and reflected in the June 21, 2013 working drafts. As a result of these changes, the bill dramatically expanded in both length—the version of the bill favorably reported by the Senate committee was double the length of the bill that had been passed by the Assembly—and substantive scope. Numerous provisions were added to the bill expanding the availability of tax incentives under the Grow NJ program.

On June 27, 2013, the Senate passed its version of the EOA 2013 bill, incorporating many of Mr. Sheehan's revisions, and returned the bill to the Assembly. That same day, the Assembly concurred in the amended bill, with additional amendments, and returned it to the Senate. The Senate passed the amended bill on August 19, 2013, sending it to the Governor. Governor Chris Christie conditionally vetoed the bill on September 9, 2013, recommending limited revisions. The Assembly and the Senate both concurred in Governor Christie's recommended revisions and returned the bill to him. The EOA 2013 was finally enacted into law on September 18, 2013. The provisions of the bill drafted in whole or in part by Parker McCay largely survived this iterative process and were included in the final bill enacted into law.

Several of the most important or otherwise notable aspects of Grow NJ's amendments under the EOA 2013 are discussed below. These amendments, each of which Parker McCay appears to have had some role in drafting, are illustrative of some of the ways Grow NJ's statutory design following the enactment of the EOA 2013 was structured to favor chosen special interests in ways both large and small, sometimes arguably to the detriment of the public interest. It is important to

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²⁸ These draft versions of the bill are attached as Exhibits 1 and 2. The authorship information in the metadata is not visible in these exhibits.

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note that the EOA 2013's changes to the Grow NJ program were innumerable and complex, and most will not be discussed in this First Report.

a) Tax Incentives for Grocery Stores in Camden

Grow NJ, both in its original and current iterations, has generally precluded tax incentives for retail businesses.²⁹ The EOA 2013 included several provisions, however, drafted in part by Parker McCay, which expressly authorized the EDA, as an exception from the otherwise applicable exclusion for retail projects, to award tax incentives to companies that would build grocery stores in Camden. The policy basis to incentivize development of grocery stores in Camden is readily apparent, because Camden has for decades been described as a "food desert" in which there are insufficient grocery stores to serve the city's residents.³⁰

However, notwithstanding the indisputable need to increase food access in Camden, the EOA 2013 did not allow tax incentives for all or even most potential grocery stores that could be built in the city. Instead, the EOA 2013 amended the Grow NJ statute to allow tax incentives for a "full-service supermarket or grocery store" *only* if it would be "at least 50 percent" of a larger retail development "of at least 150,000 square feet." Therefore, the grocery store itself must be at least 75,000 square feet at a minimum to qualify for tax incentives. For reference, the average American grocery store size around this time was reported to be approximately 46,000 square feet—far below the minimum threshold size required to qualify for tax incentives under Grow NJ as amended by the EOA 2013. If the goal was to alleviate the lack of local food access for Camden residents, an ostensible policy justification for limiting the incentives to supersized grocery stores, while

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²⁹ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-243 (generally excluding "business[es] that [are] . . . engaged in final point of sale retail" from the definition of the "qualified business facilit[ies]" that are eligible for tax incentives).

³⁰ See Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 202:24-203:6 (testimony that Camden was considered a food desert in which the city's residents lacked convenient access to a grocery store).

³¹ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-243 ("qualified business facility" definition).

³² See Brad Tuttle, Your Grocery Store May Soon Be Cut in Half, MONEY, June 2, 2014, http://money.com/money/136330/why-your-grocery-store-may-soon-be-cut-in-half; Brad Tuttle, Fewer Choices, More Savings: The New Way to Buy Groceries, TIME, Jan. 25, 2011, http://business.time.com/2011/01/25/fewer-choices-more-savings-the-new-way-to-buy-groceries.

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excluding such incentives for grocery stores of average or even large sizes that would also provide Camden residents with increased food access, is not obvious.³³

The Task Force's investigation to date has found that the cause of this statutory limitation appears to have not likely been considerations of the public interest, but rather the private business interests of one of Parker McCay's clients. In March of 2013, before the EOA 2013 was enacted, the owners of several grocery stores in New Jersey and a development firm announced that they had partnered in a joint venture to open a ShopRite grocery store in Camden, which would anchor a larger retail shopping center.³⁴ Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Norcross of Parker McCay represented the retail project, which, when completed, was planned to be over 150,000 square feet, with at least 50 percent occupied by the grocery store. Meanwhile, around this same time, another developer had separate plans to build a different retail development in Camden that would also be anchored by a grocery store. This competitor retail development was planned to be smaller, such that it would not qualify for tax-incentive subsidies under the EOA 2013 amendment, while the retail development that Parker McCay represented would.

It should be noted that both projects ultimately failed, and neither grocery store was built. The Task Force has received evidence demonstrating that the project Parker McCay represented initiated efforts to receive tax incentives from the EDA, but the project collapsed before any award was approved.³⁵ The competitor project, which was necessarily disqualified for tax incentives as a result of this EOA 2013 amendment, also failed.

³³ EDA's former President and Chief Operating Officer Tim Lizura testified at the Task Force's May 2, 2019 public hearing that "[y]ou can make an argument" for tax incentives for grocery stores of any size in Camden, but with respect to this limitation, "it didn't offend us that that was the provision that was there." Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 236:16-238:9.

³⁴ See Mayor Redd, The Goldenberg Group, and Ravitz Family ShopRites Announce Major Retail Project in Camden, CITY OF CAMDEN, March 19, 2013, https://www.ci.camden.nj.us/releases/mayor-redd-the-goldenberg-group-and-ravitz-family-shoprites-announce-major-retail-project-in-camden.

³⁵ See Allison Steele, Long-promised Camden supermarket isn't coming, PHILA. INQUIRER, Aug. 9, 2016, https://www.inquirer.com/philly/news/new_jersey/20160810_Long-promised_Camden_supermarket_isn_t_coming.html ("Plans to build a ShopRite supermarket on the Admiral Wilson Boulevard in Camden, a project that officials had said would create permanent jobs and provide improved access to fresh, affordable food, have fallen apart, according to sources with knowledge of the situation. Instead, Actega North America Inc., a Delran-based company that makes coatings and sealants, on Tuesday was approved to receive \$40 million in state tax incentives if it decides to



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The Alternative Approach to Award Calculation for Incentivized b) **Camden Projects**

As a general rule, the Grow NJ Act provides that the size of a tax incentive award is determined by a relatively straightforward formula that is tied to the number of new jobs created by the company in New Jersey and/or the number of existing jobs retained by the company in New Jersey that, absent the tax incentive award, would be relocated out of state or eliminated.³⁶ First, a "base" amount per job—ranging from between \$500 to \$5,000 annually—is determined based on certain statutorily defined factors (primarily the location of the project).³⁷ Second, any applicable statutorily defined "bonus" amounts are applied to increase the total award per job. 38 For example, jobs in a "targeted industry" (the EDA is statutorily authorized to determine which industries are "targeted") are eligible to receive an increase of \$500 annually per job.³⁹ Under this statutory formula, the maximum possible award per job is \$15,000 annually. 40

However, provisions of the EOA 2013, drafted in part by Parker McCay, amended the Grow NJ statute to set out an additional, alternative approach to award calculation exclusively for incentivized projects located in Camden. Under these provisions, the award calculation for Camden projects is effectively decoupled from the number of jobs created or retained by the company, and is instead tied to-and, unless capped by an applicable statutory limitation, equal to-the size of the company's capital investment in the project.⁴¹ These provisions have allowed companies that agreed to make large capital investments in projects located in Camden to qualify for awards far exceeding the amounts that would have otherwise been permitted.

For an illustration of the difference between the statutory formula approach under Grow NJ for award calculation and what is often referred to as the "Camden alternative" approach, consider a hypothetical project in which a company will invest \$100 million to build a new office building in New Jersey at which the company plans to hire 250 new employees. Under the formula approach applicable to projects in most of the State, with a maximum annual per-job award of \$15,000, as

build a 130,000-square foot headquarters on the site. . . . No explanation has been provided for why the ShopRite project collapsed.").

³⁶ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-246(a)–(d).

³⁷ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-246(b).

³⁸ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-246(c).

³⁹ See N.J. Stat. §§ 34:1B-246(c), 34:1B-243 ("targeted industry" definition).

⁴⁰ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-246(d).

⁴¹ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-246(d) (subsection beginning, "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein and in the provisions of subsections a. through f. of this section . . . ").



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discussed above, the largest possible award for the company would be \$3.75 million each year (\$15,000 x 250 jobs). Over the ten-year term for awards under Grow NJ, the maximum award would be \$37.5 million (\$3.75 million x 10 years). If the project were in Camden, however, and subject to the Camden alternative approach to award calculation, the company could receive an award of \$100 million, equal to the size of the anticipated costs to build the new office building—over twice the size of the maximum award available in other parts of the State.

Numerous Parker McCay clients have benefited from the Camden alternative approach to award calculation. As noted previously, Parker McCay client, the Conner Strong & Buckelew insurance brokerage firm, was approved by the EDA on March 24, 2017 for an \$86 million award to relocate 268 jobs from the company's existing offices to a new office tower to be built on the Camden waterfront. Pursuant to the Camden alternative provisions of EOA 2013, this award was based on the claimed anticipated costs of the office tower's construction. Under the formula approach to award calculation, the company could have potentially, in the best possible circumstances for it, qualified for a maximum award of \$40.2 million (\$15,000 x 268 jobs x 10 years).

The Task Force has not conducted an economic analysis of the approaches to award calculations under Grow NJ and therefore has made no finding concerning whether the increased size of Camden alternative awards is sensible as a matter of public policy. Indeed, given the enormous challenges facing Camden, one of New Jersey's poorest cities, an up-front decision by the State to appropriate substantial resources—through the normal procedures for allocating State resources—to invest in the capital infrastructure would have been completely understandable.

However, while there are certainly rational policy justifications for providing incentives for capital projects located in Camden, the Camden alternative approach in the EOA 2013, which do so in the context of an enhanced tax-incentive program ostensibly dedicated to job growth, has been criticized as excessive by a number of parties given the potentially large cost to the State, and even many of its defenders have said that it may need to be appropriately reconsidered in future legislation. For example, a July 2018 report (the "Rutgers Report") by Will Irving, Michael L. Lahr, and Ray Caprio of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, which analyzed data concerning Grow NJ awards approved by the EDA to date, found that the average cost in tax incentives per job incentivized by the formula approach was \$55,888, while the average cost per job under the Camden alternative approach was

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\$340,000—over six times more.⁴² The Rutgers Report recommended that the Camden alternative approach "be revised to tie awards more closely to the employment created by these firms."⁴³

Additionally, it should be noted that the "capital investment" definition in the statute, which, as described above, effectively operates to define the expenditures for which companies are eligible to receive recompense via tax credits, is extremely broad. The statute defines "capital investment" with respect to projects in Camden to include, among other things, any and all "development, redevelopment, and relocation costs." The result is that a broad range of expenditures in Camden by Grow NJ beneficiary companies may be effectively reimbursed via tax credits—notably, including expenditures for which the public interest in state subsidization is debatable. For example, the new office tower on the Camden waterfront for which Conner Strong & Buckelew was approved for an \$86 million award included a rooftop helipad, the construction of which is within the scope of the statutory "capital investment" definition. Whether Grow NJ was intended to enable the State to subsidize helipads for corporate executives can reasonably be questioned.

c) Expansion of Capital Expenditures Eligible for Tax Credits

As discussed above, the "capital investment" definition in the Grow NJ statute effectively operates to define the expenditures for which companies with projects in Camden are eligible to receive recompense via tax credits. It appears that Kevin Sheehan of Parker McCay had a role in amending the statute's "capital investment" definition in two ways apparently intended to benefit the firm's clients.⁴⁵

First, Mr. Sheehan appears to have amended the definition to include, as an eligible expenditure, "pier, wharf, [or] bulkhead... construction or repair." This amendment was likely intended to benefit several Parker McCay clients, including Conner Strong & Buckelew, that, as discussed in Section V(C)(4)(b) of this First Report, had plans to construct a new office tower on a pier on the Delaware River waterfront of Camden. As a result of this amendment, these clients would be allowed to receive tax credits for any such construction or repairs on the pier.

⁴² Rutgers Report at i–ii. The Rutgers Report is available on the EDA's website, at https://www.njeda.com/pdfs/NJEDA-Final-Incentives-Report_Governor.aspx.

⁴³ Rutgers Report at iii.

⁴⁴ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-243 ("capital investment" definition).

⁴⁵ In addition, it is notable that the "capital investment" definition was expanded to include expenditures on "professional services." However, the metadata does not reflect that Kevin Sheehan made that amendment.

⁴⁶ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-243 ("capital investment" definition).



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Second, Mr. Sheehan appears to have also amended the "capital investment" definition to include "site acquisition" as an eligible expenditure if purchased within 24 months prior to the Grow NJ application, thereby allowing the firm's clients with planned projects in Camden to potentially receive tax credits for real estate that the company purchased before even applying to the EDA for the tax incentives. ⁴⁷ This amendment has a clear tension with the overarching purpose of taxincentive programs, which are intended to incentivize companies to make decisions that they have not already made and would not make absent the incentive. This provision, by contrast, affords tax credits for company decisions already made—that is, real estate already purchased. Precisely because of this tension, the EDA's former President and Chief Operating Officer Tim Lizura testified at the Task Force's May 2, 2019 public hearing that this provision "was always a challenge to administer" and he "never really understood the policy behind it."

d) Phantom Taxes in the Net Benefit Test

Under the Grow NJ Act, every tax-incentive award must be anticipated to "yield a net positive benefit to the State." In this context, the "benefit to the State" means tax revenues collectible by the State as a result of the fruition of the project for which the tax incentives were awarded—that is, tax revenue that the State would not collect in the absence of the tax incentives. For example, consider construction work in New Jersey that would not occur unless tax incentives are provided. If the incentives are awarded and the construction is commenced, any taxes collected by the State as a result of such incentivized construction, such as property taxes on the developed property and sales taxes on the building materials used in the construction, are "benefits to the State." Because of this so-called "net benefit" requirement under the Grow NJ Act, tax incentives under the Program are sometimes said to effectively "pay for themselves." That is, if the statute operates as intended, the State will collect tax revenue at least in the amount that the State "spends" on tax incentives, meaning that there is no loss to the public fisc.

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⁴⁷ Although the text of this provision has been revised by subsequent statutory amendments, Mr. Sheehan's amendment remains in substance in the current law. *See* N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-243 (defining "capital investment" in pertinent part: "In addition to the foregoing, in a Garden State Growth Zone [including Camden], the following qualify as capital investment: . . . site acquisition if made within 24 months of application to the [EDA]").

⁴⁸ Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 228:11-230:19. As for why the provision would allow tax credits for site acquisition up to two years prior to the Grow NJ application but not earlier periods, Mr. Lizura said that he did not know of a policy reason for the distinction. *Id.* at 233:6-14.

⁴⁹ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a)(3).



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However, the EOA 2013's amendments to the Grow NJ program included certain provisions that significantly undermined the net benefit requirement for projects in Camden. Pursuant to these provisions, the net benefit calculation "may utilize" the value of certain taxes that would otherwise accrue but were exempted from payment by operation of other provisions of law. ⁵⁰ In other words, the Grow NJ Act was amended to provide that the net benefit calculation for projects in Camden may include "phantom taxes" as ostensible "benefits to the State" even if the State will never collect those taxes. As a result of these provisions, the "net positive benefit to the State" that is purportedly required by the law may be rendered illusory. ⁵¹

The bill drafts in Microsoft Word format in the Task Force's possession, both dated June 21, 2013, do not contain these provisions, which were apparently not yet incorporated into the bill as of this date. Therefore, the Task Force does not have a document with metadata that indicates the author of these provisions. However, the Task Force is in possession of email correspondence between government officials who were involved in the EOA 2013's drafting that refers to "the 'phantom tax' notion for NBT that Phil and Kevin laid out in [the] original bill draft." Because Parker McCay represented numerous clients with project plans in Camden, these provisions would have allowed these companies to potentially receive large Grow NJ awards—pursuant to the Camden alternative approach provisions discussed above—without the State receiving a corresponding net positive benefit. 54

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⁵⁰ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a)(3)(b).

⁵¹ At the Task Force's May 2, 2019 public hearing, the EDA's former President and Chief Operating Officer Tim Lizura was asked whether these provisions "allowed projects to get through even though they weren't paying for themselves." Mr. Lizura responded, "I would say that's a pretty accurate statement." Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 257:9-15.

⁵² We have been advised that a law firm has additional versions of drafts of EOA 2013 from this time period. The Task Force has attempted to obtain these drafts through voluntary cooperation from that firm. To date, we have not been successful.

⁵³ Exhibit 3. The EDA's Tim Lizura, who received this email, testified concerning the email's reference to "Phil": "I assume that's Phil Norcross." Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 251:3-19.

⁵⁴ Mr. Lizura testified that he recalled the following companies with approved Grow NJ awards as having benefited from the phantom tax provisions: Holtec International, Philadelphia 76ers, L.P., American Water (American Water Works Company, Inc., American Water Works Service Company, Inc., and American Water Enterprises, Inc.), Subaru of America, Inc., Conner Strong & Buckelew Companies, LLC, The Michaels Organization, LLC, NFI, L.P. When asked whether Parker McCay represented all of those companies, Mr. Lizura responded, "I recall they represent[ed] some, some role in most of those." Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 257:16-258:14.

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e) The Material Factor Test Applicable to Camden Projects

For incentivized projects in most parts of New Jersey, it is indisputable that, for a company to receive Grow NJ tax incentives for existing jobs in New Jersey, those jobs must be at risk of leaving the State or being eliminated. This is clearly set out in the statutory text, which requires companies to establish that "but for" the provision of tax incentives, the jobs would be relocated out of state or eliminated:

> "[T]he business's chief executive officer, or equivalent officer, shall submit a certification to the [EDA] indicating: (1) that any existing full-time jobs are at risk of leaving the State or being eliminated; (2) that any projected creation or retention, as applicable, of new full-time jobs would not occur but for the provision of tax credits under the program; and (3) that the business's chief executive officer, or equivalent officer, has reviewed the information submitted to the [EDA] and that the representations contained therein are accurate "55

As discussed above, the Task Force reviewed the June 21, 2013 EOA 2013 bill drafts.⁵⁶ The metadata in these documents appear to show that Kevin Sheehan of Parker McCay amended the above-quoted language to add a provision expressly stating that the risk of an out-of-state relocation "shall not be required with respect to projects in [Camden]." Mr. Sheehan proposed to amend the provision as follows:

> "[T]he business's chief executive officer, or equivalent officer, shall submit a certification to the [EDA] indicating that: (i) any existing full-time jobs are at risk of leaving the State or being eliminated; (ii) that any projected creation, or retention as applicable, of new full-time jobs would not occur but for the provision of tax credits under the program; and, (iii) that the business's chief executive officer, or equivalent officer, has reviewed the information submitted to the [EDA] and that the representations contained therein are accurate, provided however, item (i) shall not be required with respect to projects in [Camden]..."57

⁵⁵ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(d).

⁵⁶ Exhibits 1 and 2.

⁵⁷ Additionally, in the current version of the statute, there is also language that makes this provision apply to projects in Atlantic City as well as to projects in Camden. The Atlantic City language was

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(Emphasis added).

On Friday, June 21, 2013, at 8:12 PM, an aide to then-Governor Chris Christie, Colin Newman, who was involved in EOA 2013's drafting, sent an email to several senior EDA officials—Tim Lizura, Maureen Hassett, and Michele Brown—attaching a working draft of the bill containing the above-quoted amendment by Mr. Sheehan of Parker McCay.⁵⁸ Mr. Newman noted in the email that the bill draft presented certain "issues" that needed to be discussed over the weekend.⁵⁹ On Sunday, June 23, 2013, at 10:31 PM, Mr. Newman sent an email to Mr. Lizura and Ms. Hassett, stating that they needed to prepare "compromise language" with respect to the above-quoted provision. ⁶⁰ Mr. Newman proposed language that would have restored the requirement that, for projects in Camden, there be a risk of out-of-state relocation to receive tax incentives for retaining jobs.⁶¹ Throughout the morning and afternoon of Monday, June 24, 2013, Mr. Newman, Mr. Lizura, and Ms. Hassett proceeded to iteratively draft additional versions of proposed compromise language, while appearing to complain that the other side of the negotiations continued to produce "unsatisfactory" counterproposals.⁶²

By the afternoon of June 24, 2013, the negotiating parties appear to have agreed to compromise language that rejected the "shall-not-be-required" language that Mr. Sheehan had drafted and replaced it with a "material factor" test that was ultimately enacted into law, and is still embodied in the version of the statute in force now. That material factor test is as follows:

"[T]he business's chief executive officer, or equivalent officer, shall submit a certification to the [EDA] indicating: (1) that any existing full-time jobs are at risk of leaving the State or being eliminated; (2) that any projected creation or retention, as applicable, of new full-time jobs would not occur but for the provision of tax credits under the program; and (3) that the business's chief executive officer, or equivalent officer, has reviewed the information submitted to the [EDA] and that the representations contained therein are accurate, provided however, that in satisfaction of the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, the certification

added in 2014 statutory amendments. Because the current discussion concerns EOA 2013's amendments, which did not yet apply to Atlantic City, we omit that language here.

⁵⁹ Exhibit 4.

⁵⁸ Exhibit 4.

⁶⁰ Exhibit 5.

⁶¹ Exhibit 5.

⁶² See Exhibits 6, 7, and 8.



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with respect to a project in [Camden 63] . . . shall indicate that the provision of tax credits under the program is a material factor in the business decision to make a capital investment and locate in [Camden] "

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(Emphasis added).⁶⁴

Thus, the statute provides that, for projects in Camden to be eligible for tax incentives, the company must be facing a "business decision" concerning where to "locate." One option must be Camden, and the provision of tax incentives must be a "material factor" in the company's decision to locate there. However, the statutory text does not specify one way or the other whether the "business decision" concerning the company's location (a) must be between Camden versus an outof-state location or (b) may be between Camden versus another New Jersey location. No court has yet had occasion to interpret this clause and resolve this statutory ambiguity concerning whether tax incentives are available for intra-state relocations to Camden when no potential out-of-state relocation is considered. From the Task Force's perspective, the former interpretation—that is, that tax incentives for projects relocating to Camden, like tax incentives for projects relocating elsewhere, are available only if the company is considering a potential out-of-state location—is likely the better interpretation. This is so for at least two reasons. First, the New Jersey Supreme Court has repeatedly taught that "the furtherance of legislative purpose is the key to the interpretation of any statute,"65 and here, the Grow NJ statute expressly states that a purpose of the program is to "preserve jobs that currently exist in New Jersey but which are in danger of being relocated outside of the State."66 The statute does *not* say that its purpose is to incentivize the relocation of jobs to Camden from elsewhere in New Jersey, even if those jobs are not at risk of

⁶³ The statutory text that is replaced here with the bracketed "Camden" notation for ease of readability is the following: "a Garden State Growth Zone that qualifies under the 'Municipal Rehabilitation and Economic Recovery Act,' P.L.2002, c. 43 (C.52:27BBB-1 et al.)." Camden is the only municipality that fits that definition, as it is "the only municipality affected by the provisions of the [Municipal Rehabilitation and Economic Recovery Act]." Fiscal Impact Statement for Assembly Bill No. 4375 (Jan. 4, 2010), https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2008/Bills/A4500/4375 S1.HTM.

⁶⁴ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(d).

⁶⁵ GE Solid State, Inc. v. Dir., Div. of Taxation, 132 N.J. 298, 308 (1993). See also, e.g., In re Young, 202 N.J. 50, 64 (2010) (explaining that statutory interpretation must be intended to "effectuate the fundamental purpose for which the legislation was enacted").

⁶⁶ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a).



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leaving the State. It would further the statute's express purpose, therefore, to construe the out-of-state requirement that is applicable to projects in the rest of the State to also apply to Camden.⁶⁷ Second, if the statute were to be interpreted as intended to incentivize the relocation of jobs to Camden from other parts of New Jersey, a question would arise as to whether the statute would be unconstitutional because it would favor Camden over other parts of the State and, as such, arguably be an impermissible "private, special or local law." Statutory interpretations that avoid such serious constitutional questions are typically favored.⁶⁹ For these reasons, ⁷⁰ if a New Jersey court

⁶⁷ *Cf. Murray v. Plainfield Rescue Squad*, 210 N.J. 581, 592 (2012) ("We do not view the statutory words in isolation but in context with related provisions so as to give sense to the legislation as a whole.").

⁶⁸ See N.J. Const., art. IV, § VII, ¶ 7 ("No general law shall embrace any provision of a private, special or local character.") and ¶ 9(6) ("The Legislature shall not pass any private, special or local laws . . . [r]elating to taxation or exemption therefrom."); *Mooney v. Bd. of Chosen Freeholders of Atl. Cty.*, 122 N.J. Super. 151, 154 (Law. Div.), *aff'd*, 125 N.J. Super. 271 (App. Div. 1973) ("[L]ocal and special laws rest on a false or deficient classification in that . . . they create preference and establish inequalities; they apply to persons, things or places possessed of certain qualities or situations, and exclude from their effect other persons, things or places which are not dissimilar in these respects.") (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). While the Legislature may in some cases adopt special laws if there is prior public notice (¶ 8), the prohibition in ¶ 9(6) against special laws "[r]elating to taxation or exemption therefrom" is absolute.

⁶⁹ See, e.g., Silverman v. Berkson, 141 N.J. 412, 417 (1995) ("Unless compelled to do otherwise, courts seek to avoid a statutory interpretation that might give rise to serious constitutional questions.").

Additionally, it is also notable that, whether the EDA is applying the "material factor" test that is applicable to Camden or the "but for" test that is applicable to the rest of the State, in both cases the statute directs the EDA to consider the same evidence concerning the company's potential relocation sites: "When considering an application involving intra-State job transfers, the [EDA] shall require the business to submit the following information as part of its application: a full economic analysis of all locations under consideration by the business; all lease agreements, ownership documents, or substantially similar documentation for the business's current in-State locations; and all lease agreements, ownership documents, or substantially similar documentation for **the potential out-of-State location alternatives**, to the extent they exist. Based on this information, and any other information deemed relevant by the [EDA], the [EDA] shall independently verify and confirm, by way of making a factual finding by separate vote of the [EDA]'s board, the business's assertion that the jobs are actually at risk of leaving the State, and as to the date or dates at which the [EDA] expects that those jobs would actually leave the State, or, with respect to projects located in [Camden] . . ., the business's assertion that the provision of tax



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were to construe this "material factor" provision, the Task Force believes the court would more likely than not conclude that an out-of-state location is required for projects in Camden.⁷¹ Putting our view aside, whatever the Legislature intended, any representations Grow NJ applicants made to the EDA concerning their potential out-of-state relocation were required to be truthful, so falsely stating that jobs were at risk of leaving the State and, accordingly, that an out-of-state alternative was under consideration would be highly problematic.⁷²

In any event, whether or not a risk of an out-of-state relocation is strictly required under the statute for projects in Camden, it is indisputable, based on provisions of the Grow NJ Act and EOA 2013 separate and apart from those discussed here, that whether or not such an out-of-state relocation is contemplated is a critical factor bearing upon the potential size of any award. This is because of Grow NJ's "net benefits" requirement, which mandates that every Grow NJ award be anticipated to result in a net benefit to the State in terms of new tax revenue. To companies relocating existing jobs from somewhere within New Jersey to Camden, those jobs create no new "benefit" to the State, since the "benefits" test is state wide and those jobs would yield no new tax

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credits under the program is a material factor in the business's decision to make a capital investment and locate in [Camden] . . . before a business may be awarded any tax credits under this section." N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(d) (emphasis added). If a potential out-of-state alternative location were not required for projects in Camden, it is difficult to understand why the statute directs the EDA to consider evidence of the company's "potential out-of-state location alternatives" ("to the extent they exist") in the same manner as if EDA were considering a project outside Camden, where there is no question that an out-of-state location alternative is required.

The "material factor" provision applicable to Camden, in the Task Force's view, is likely best understood as intended to reduce the required showing for the at-risk nature of the jobs: outside Camden, the CEO has to certify that but for the tax incentives jobs would leave the State (that is, the tax incentives are a determinative factor in the company's decision); by contrast, in Camden, the CEO has to certify that the tax incentives are a material factor in locating the jobs in Camden rather than in another state (that is, the tax incentives are an important factor in the company's decision but are not necessarily determinative).

⁷² See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(d) (requiring an applicant's CEO or other equivalent officer to certify that he or she "has reviewed the information submitted to the [EDA] and that the representations contained therein are accurate"). For criminal penalties under New Jersey law potentially applicable to misrepresentations in connection with Grow NJ applications, see N.J. Stat. §§ 41:3-1 (perjury), 2C:28-2 (false swearing), 2C:28-3 (unsworn falsification), 2C:21-3(b) (fraud relating to public records), 2C:20-4 (theft by deception), 2C:21-7(h) (deceptive business practices).

⁷³ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a)(3) (requiring Grow NJ awards to "yield a net positive benefit to the State").

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revenue.⁷⁴ Put another way, New Jersey accrues tax revenue from those jobs whether or not they are relocated, since in either case they are in the State. Based on this principle, when in-state jobs are relocated to Camden and no potential out-of-state alternative is contemplated, the "benefit" calculation is minimal, and the potential tax incentive award must be reduced as a result.⁷⁵ Thus, if a company falsely certified that its jobs were "at risk" of leaving the State—when they were not at risk—such a representation would likely affect the size of the company's potential award, and, as such, would surely be material.⁷⁶

We hasten to note that the above discussion relates to the Grow NJ statute itself—not to the EDA's administration of the law, which is covered later in this First Report. Here, the Task Force notes that with respect to the "material factor" provision of the statute, there is a notable ambiguity, which, as shown by the evidence above, may have been by design—as a compromise between, on the one hand, those parties who advocated for the statute to expressly provide that a risk of out-of-state relocation "shall not be required" for projects in Camden, and, on the other hand, those parties who advocated for the statute to require a showing that jobs were at risk of out-of-state relocation. ⁷⁷

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⁷⁴ This principle, which is inherent in the notion of a state-wide "benefits" test, is expressly set out in EDA's regulations for Grow NJ, which provide in pertinent part: "Retained employees in a project in [Camden] . . . shall not be included [in the benefits calculation] unless the business demonstrates that the award of tax credits will be a material factor to retain the employees **in the State**" N.J. Admin. Code § 19:31-18.7(c) (emphasis added).

⁷⁵ This issue is discussed further below, in Section V(C)(2)(b) of this First Report.

⁷⁶ As EDA's former President and Chief Operating Officer Tim Lizura explained at the Task Force's May 2, 2019 public hearing, "the net benefit test was a statewide test, and that would suggest, or would then require that the jobs would be at risk of leaving New Jersey in order to include [the] economic impact of those jobs under the net benefit test. If there was not a risk of leaving the state, we would include all the other drivers of the net benefit test except the economic activity from the employees, which is the largest driver of the economic output." Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 262:8-18).

⁷⁷ In 2014, this provision of the Grow NJ Act was again amended to provide that Atlantic City would be treated in the same manner as Camden. Therefore, under the current version of the statute, companies may be eligible for Grow NJ benefits when the tax incentives are a "material factor" in the company's decision to locate in either Camden or Atlantic City. The statutory ambiguity discussed in this section with respect to Camden applies likewise with respect to Atlantic City.



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2. Influence by Special Interests in EDA's Implementing Regulations for Grow NJ

After EOA 2013 was enacted in September of 2013, it fell to the EDA to promulgate regulations to implement the law's amendments to the Grow NJ program. As described previously, New Jersey law required the EDA to use a "notice-and-comment" process in connection with its issuance of such regulations—that is, to provide public notice of the regulations it was considering and to receive and consider comments from interested members of the public in response to such proposals. However, the Task Force has received information and documents that appear to show that—before the EDA publicly announced any proposed regulations—Kevin Sheehan of Parker McCay privately lobbied the agency to adopt provisions favorable to the firm's clients. At least one of these requests was incorporated in the EDA's first publicly proposed regulations, which the agency announced on January 6, 2014.

Grow NJ, as previously noted, generally excludes retail businesses from eligibility for tax incentives. Parker McCay represented The Cooper Health System—the parent of Cooper University Hospital in Camden—in connection with its Grow NJ application. If the hospital were to be deemed a retail business, it would be ineligible for tax incentives under the statute. (From a policy perspective this exclusion is sensible, since a retail business—especially a hospital dedicated to serving a local community—is unlikely to make a business decision to move out of state absent tax incentives.) On December 10, 2013, Mr. Sheehan sent an email to the EDA's then President and Chief Operating Officer Tim Lizura: "[I]n reviewing the qualified business facility definition in the [regulations] that we discussed, my suggestion would be to add a sentence at the end of the definition to say: a university research hospital shall not be considered final point of sale retail. Thanks." The EDA incorporated the request into its initial January 6, 2014 regulatory proposal as well as its final regulations adopted on December 15, 2014, and the provision remains in effect in the regulations in force now. The Cooper Health System—deemed eligible for tax incentives pursuant to this regulation—would later be approved by the EDA for an approximately \$40 million award. Meanwhile, the EDA does not appear to have disclosed that, outside of the public notice-

⁷⁸ See N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-243 (generally excluding "business[es] that [are] . . . engaged in final point of sale retail" from the definition of the "qualified business facilit[ies]" that are eligible for tax incentives).

⁷⁹ Exhibit 9.

⁸⁰ See N.J. Admin. Code § 19:31-18.2 (in the "qualified business facility" definition, carving out "university research hospital[s]" from the scope of ineligible "business[es] . . . engaged in final point of sale retail business").



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and-comment period, its regulations had been amended in response to the request of a private party, apparently to assist a specific client.

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3. Inadequate Statutory Requirements to Ensure Job Requirements Are Consistently Met

The current statutory requirements and EDA regulations governing reporting requirements and required annual jobs reports for companies to receive awards are inadequate to ensure that companies are consistently creating or retaining the required number of jobs and achieving the aims of Grow NJ. Based on the language of the regulations, a company need only submit an annual report, certified by the company's chief financial officer or equivalent, showing that it created or retained the required number of jobs for the last tax year before the credit amount is approved and issued. There is no additional certification requirement to ensure that these jobs are maintained to further the aims of economic growth and job creation. In essence, a company could create the number of jobs required in its agreement, certify, receive the first tenth of its overall credit, and then eliminate or fail to retain the required number of jobs immediately after receiving its credit while still retaining the award for the full year.

Indeed, in one instance, World Business Lenders, LLC ("WBL"), moved to New Jersey from another state in July 2016. WBL's award was contingent on its promise to bring a specific number of jobs into New Jersey, and its Incentive Agreement provided that it would remain in New Jersey for fifteen years. By October 2016, WBL had hired enough employees to meet the employment numbers set forth in its Incentive Agreement. WBL's submission to the EDA showed that it had satisfied the employment numbers set forth in its Incentive Agreement in October 2016. In the beginning of December 2016, the EDA certified to the Division of Taxation that the company was eligible for its overall tax credit certificate of approximately \$16 million. At the beginning of January 2017, however, the company laid off a significant number of its employees, sending its job numbers well below the number required to continue to qualify for a tax-incentive grant. The EDA learned of the mass layoffs through news reports. The company subsequently submitted a report showing that it had met the required employment numbers for November and December 2016. Therefore, despite having seen indications that the company had terminated its employees after satisfying the requirements to receive its tax credit for 2016, the EDA asked the Division of Taxation to issue the company the first tenth of its overall credit, amounting to approximately \$1.6 million. The company received this award even though it had been located in New Jersey for only six months, had submitted only three months of employment data, and had laid off a significant number of employees shortly after qualifying for the first year of its award.

The Task Force is still investigating this issue and has not reached any conclusion regarding the company's conduct or intent in connection with its application, and the company has maintained



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that it acted entirely in compliance with Grow NJ's requirements. Regardless, the Grow NJ regulations did not specifically require that the company prove that it maintained the agreed-upon number of jobs for a full twelve-months, did not require that it be located in New Jersey for a full year in order to receive a full year's award, and did not have a mechanism requiring that a company maintain a minimum number of jobs after the award was issued in order to retain its award. The company was not certified to receive the second tenth of its award in 2017 because it did not employ the required number of employees for that tax year.

V. EDA: THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TAX-INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

In its examination of the EDA's implementation and administration of the Programs, the Task Force set out to: (1) further examine and assess the EDA's process and control failures, including in the EDA application-approval process, from pre-application through approval and certification; (2) evaluate the effectiveness of existing EDA policies and procedures relating to the roles and responsibilities of individual EDA officers, EDA staff training, and EDA officers' understanding of the purpose, implementation, requirements, and administration of the Grow NJ and ERG tax incentive programs; (3) assess the administration of the tax incentive programs and subsequent monitoring of grant recipients; and (4) determine whether or not external or internal pressures were brought to bear on the EDA in connection with its application approval, compliance, monitoring, and certification processes, as well as its rulemaking processes relating to the Programs.

A. Overview of the Application-Approval Process

In order to evaluate any problems relating to the Programs' design, implementation, or administration, the Task Force had to begin with an understanding of the relevant statutes and of the EDA's tax-incentive application and administration process, from application through the annual award of tax-incentive grants. As noted previously, the Task Force focused primarily on Grow NJ during the initial phase of its investigation. A high-level overview of the Grow NJ process is below:⁸¹

1. Pre-Approval Process: Application Review and Board Approval

Companies learn of EDA tax-incentive programs and make initial contact with the EDA through various channels. The EDA receives potential application referrals through a customer care telephone line, through the Business Action Center ("BAC"), which is housed within the New

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⁸¹ Although there is significant overlap between the Grow NJ and ERG processes, particularly in the pre-application through approval stages, the differences in the Grow NJ and ERG Program requirements result in divergent approaches to the administration of these Programs. We will provide an overview of the ERG process in a later report.

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Jersey Department of State, and through Choose New Jersey, a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mandate is to act as the marketing arm of the State and attract out-of-state and international businesses to New Jersey. BAC personnel frequently work with EDA officers to attract and obtain program applicants, and the BAC has historically been the biggest driver of application lead referrals to the EDA. Separately, the EDA's Community Development Officers ("CDOs") and Business Development Officers ("BDOs")⁸² are also charged with developing business relationships and recruiting potential applicants. Indeed, a BDO's year-end performance is evaluated, in part, on their outreach efforts as well as whether they have met yearly goals in the volume of applications submitted to the EDA. Potential applicants may also directly contact the EDA to obtain information about the Programs. In addition, applicants are often represented by consultants, lawyers, lobbyists, or real-estate agents, and those representatives may also reach out directly to EDA personnel prior to the submission of a tax-incentive application.

Before submitting a Program application, a potential applicant often has an initial meeting or conversation with EDA personnel—typically a BDO—in order to discuss the applicant's business, needs, and Program requirements. Potential applicants occasionally meet with members of the EDA's senior leadership team in addition to or in lieu of meeting with a BDO. Preapplication dialogue between Program applicants and the EDA is not required, but in practice, often precedes formal submission of a company application by weeks or months.

A company formally submits its application through the EDA's electronic application system. At that time, the company pays an application fee and a BDO is assigned to the application. Often, it is the same BDO that worked with the company pre-application. The BDO is responsible for conducting an initial review of the application and assisting the applicant—or "client"—in ensuring that the applicant has submitted all required documentation prior to transmittal of the application file to Underwriting. BDOs must consult their Program Manager and Managing Director for application reviews before the application is submitted to the Underwriting group.

During the underwriting phase, underwriters are responsible for conducting due diligence and vetting an application to ensure it sufficiently meets all Program requirements and to address any outstanding concerns. Although underwriters bear the primary responsibility for conducting due diligence and follow-up with applicants, they often include the assigned BDO in correspondence to the applicant as the face of the relationship. Among other factors, underwriters

⁸² These roles and titles within the EDA are now consolidated and currently all Community Development Officers ("CDOs") are now referred to as Business Development Officers ("BDOs"). For the sake of consistency, the Task Force's First Report will refer to both CDOs and BDOs at various times as BDOs.

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assess the applicant's submitted cost benefit analysis⁸³ and conduct the required net benefits analysis.⁸⁴ Underwriters are also responsible for drafting project summary memoranda, which are presented during "Project Review Meetings." At those meetings, the assigned underwriter presents the application to EDA personnel and members of the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. The EDA staff discusses and raises any issues or concerns related to the application, which the assigned underwriter answers or addresses directly with the applicant as follow-up.

After the Project Review meeting, the underwriter presents the application to the Incentive Committee of the EDA Board, after which the Incentive Committee either does or does not recommend an application for approval by the Board. Although an application may proceed to Board review without a recommendation by the Incentive Committee, more often, the applicant will withdraw its application if the Incentive Committee does not recommend approval.

If the Incentive Committee recommends that the EDA Board approve an application, the application is presented during an EDA Board meeting for approval. EDA Board meetings are conducted on a regular basis and are open to the public. Prior to the Board Meeting, EDA personnel provides the EDA Board with memoranda detailing the project applications that are subject to review and approval at the upcoming meeting. If the Board votes on an application and it is approved, the Governor has ten days to veto the approval. Board-approved projects are required to pay a non-refundable fee of 0.5% of the approved award amount, capped between \$50,000 to \$500,000, prior to final approval.

Depending on the complexity of the application, the full review process may last a number of months. EDA employees said that, in the early period of Grow NJ's administration, they often processed applications in one or two months, but now, although they can process more complete applications in as little as two months, it could take several months to a year to process others.

⁸³ The EDA requires Grow NJ applicants to submit "Cost Benefit Analysis" (or "CBA") forms with their applications. These forms compare the costs of the applicant's proposed New Jersey site and the applicant's alternative site. The purpose of the form is to demonstrate that the applicant's proposed New Jersey location is more expensive than the alternative location—and thus, tax incentives are required to offset the higher costs.

⁸⁴ As discussed in further detail herein, the EDA conducts a net benefit analysis ("NBA") to determine that every Grow NJ award is anticipated to "yield a net positive benefit to the State" of at least 110%, with the exception of Camden, where the requirement is 100%.



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2. Post-Approval Process: Closing Services, Monitoring, and Certification

After Board approval, the EDA executes an approval letter and the project moves to Closing Services, during which a conditions of approval officer monitors the project to ensure that any conditions imposed on the project have been met. The conditions of approval, outlined in the approval letter, may include, for example, site plan approval, site control, committed project financing, eligible minimum capital investments, and updated status reports. Once the conditions have been met, Closing Services prepares an Incentive Agreement in consultation with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. Once the Incentive Agreement is executed, a closing date is set. After closing, the company may receive a tax award the following year, provided it can certify that the project has met all the conditions of the Incentive Agreement in the prior year.

Once the closing process is complete and an Incentive Agreement has been executed, the project is transferred to the Portfolio Management and Compliance⁸⁵ group for monitoring and annual certification. Projects have three years to certify that they have met all the conditions and requirements of the Program and Incentive Agreement, with the possibility of up to two six-month extensions of time. Once a project certifies to the EDA that it has met all conditions and requirements of the Program and Incentive Agreement, the EDA's Portfolio Management and Compliance group then certifies the same to the Department of Treasury. The Treasury Department then issues the tax-incentive award. Projects are required to certify their compliance on an annual basis to obtain their tax-incentive award, which is distributed evenly in increments of 1/10th of the total award, across a ten-year period.

If the Portfolio Management and Compliance Group determines that a project is non-compliant with its Incentive Agreement or the Program requirements, the tax incentive award is subject to potential forfeiture, recapture, or recoupment.

B. EDA-Related Litigation

In the early stages of the Task Force's investigation, the Task Force discovered a whistleblower complaint, *Veyis Sucsuz v. New Jersey Economic Development Authority, John J. Rosenfeld, Michele Brown, Fred Cole, Anne Cardello, and John Does 1-10*,⁸⁶ filed on May 11, 2015 in New Jersey Superior Court, Mercer County, by a former EDA underwriter, Veyis "David" Sucsuz. Mr. Sucsuz was employed at the EDA for over ten years until his termination in September 2014. He began at the EDA as a legal assistant in lending services and later became an underwriter,

⁸⁵ The Portfolio Management and Compliance Group was reorganized and renamed in late 2018 and previously existed as the Finance & Development – Post-Closing Financial Services Group.

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responsible for the review and processing of Grow NJ and ERG incentive award applications, among other incentive programs.

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In his complaint, Mr. Sucsuz alleged employment discrimination claims in addition to claims that he witnessed misconduct in connection with Grow NJ and ERG incentive program approvals, and that he was fired when he resisted directives from senior management to alter or promote applications that should have otherwise been rejected. Among other claims of misconduct by both applicant companies and individuals within the EDA, Mr. Sucsuz alleged, both in his complaint and under oath in deposition testimony, that certain applicants to the Grow NJ Program provided fabricated or "phantom" out-of-state locations. Mr. Sucsuz alleged that in some instances, applicants fabricated an alternate out-of-state location to conceal a pre-existing intention to locate or expand in New Jersey. Mr. Sucsuz alleged that such applicants were nevertheless approved for Grow NJ tax incentive grants. Mr. Sucsuz further alleged that he was directed by his supervisor to alter or manipulate cost inputs for the cost benefit analysis or net benefit test in order to qualify applicants that would not have otherwise qualified with the cost inputs provided. He alleged that when he refused to alter the cost inputs, his supervisor would do it himself.

The case ultimately went to jury trial, which began on April 30, 2018 and lasted eight days. The jury announced its verdict on May 10, 2018. While Mr. Sucsuz did not ultimately prevail on his retaliation claim, the jury unanimously found that Mr. Sucsuz had a reasonable belief that the EDA violated a law, rule or regulation in the processing of application for loans, grants and tax incentives, and had proven by a preponderance of the evidence that he performed a "whistleblowing" activity as defined by the New Jersey Conscientious Employee Protection Act ("CEPA").

Despite testimony at the May 2, 2019 hearing by a Senior Vice President of Operations for the EDA that Mr. Sucsuz's allegations "identif[ied] potential fraud or misrepresentation in the application[s] submitted to the EDA for tax incentive programs" and also "focused on the EDA's review and approval of tax incentive awards," the EDA took no action to investigate any of Mr. Sucsuz's whistleblower allegations. While the Task Force has taken no position on the accuracy

⁸⁷ As discussed in Section V(C)(2)(b) of this First Report, for incentivized projects in most parts of New Jersey, it is indisputable that, for a company to receive Grow NJ tax incentives for existing jobs in New Jersey, those jobs must be at risk of leaving the state or being eliminated. Thus, where jobs are not at risk of elimination, applicants must demonstrate an alternate out-of-state location. In any event, any proposed alternate out-of-state locations must be legitimate and comparable.

⁸⁸ Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 58:18-59:2.

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or truthfulness of Mr. Sucsuz's allegations, the Task Force has taken steps to investigate Mr. Sucsuz's various claims, which will be detailed in a later report.⁸⁹

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We also found that the EDA lacks the proper internal controls with respect to the processing and review of internal whistleblower complaints. During the second day of the Task Force's public hearing, we heard testimony from a Senior Vice President of Operations at the EDA, Fred Cole, who admitted to a failure within the EDA to investigate a former EDA underwriter's whistleblower complaints regarding various failures within the EDA with respect to tax incentive applications. At the May 2, 2019 public hearing, Mr. Cole acknowledged that the whistleblower allegations implicated conduct related to the EDA's tax-incentive programs, specifically that the allegations "identif[ied] potential fraud or misrepresentation in the application submitted to the EDA for tax incentive awards" and "also focused on the EDA's review and approval of tax incentive awards."

Yet, Mr. Cole testified that neither he nor anyone else at the EDA conducted an internal investigation into the allegations of fraud and misconduct. The Task Force takes no position on the accuracy or truthfulness of the whistleblower allegations. However, the EDA's processes failed when it took no steps to investigate the whistleblower claims which, as Mr. Cole admitted, could have had merit and, if true, could have carried significant financial ramifications.

In addition to the EDA's failure to conduct an internal investigation into the former EDA employee's whistleblower allegations, the EDA further failed to disclose this litigation to the Office of the Comptroller during its 2018 audit despite an affirmative obligation to disclose pending claims and litigation against the EDA. Indeed, the EDA's failure to disclose occurred despite the fact that members of its senior leadership team were deposed shortly before and during the beginning stages of the Comptroller's audit in late 2017 and early 2018 and despite the fact that the trial took place in April 2018 while the Comptroller's audit was ongoing. In fact, at the conclusion of the Comptroller's audit on January 3, 2019, Mr. Cole signed a management representation letter to the Comptroller's office, representing that, for the ten years prior and through the close of the Comptroller's audit, the EDA was not aware of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting

⁸⁹ During its investigation, the Task Force made several attempts to contact Mr. Sucsuz for testimony but was ultimately unsuccessful. The Task Force first attempted to obtain Mr. Sucsuz's voluntary testimony by contacting him through his former counsel; however, when Mr. Sucsuz failed to return the Task Force's requests to meet, the Task Force requested the issuance of a subpoena from Professor Chen. After several attempts to serve Mr. Sucsuz, the Task Force ultimately effectuated proper service of two subpoenas for both deposition and public hearing testimony on Mr. Sucsuz. He nevertheless failed to appear at both the date set for his deposition and the May 2, 2019 public hearing of the Task Force.

⁹⁰ Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 58:18-59:2.

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the EDA received in communications from employees or former employees and had disclosed all details concerning any pending claims, assessments and litigation against the EDA of which the EDA was aware and which would have a significant impact on financial operations. ⁹¹ EDA representatives are unable to offer an explanation for their failure to disclose the whistleblower litigation and a basis for its false representations to the Comptroller that it had, in fact, disclosed all relevant and pending claims and litigation.

C. Initial Findings

1. Lack of Written Policies and/or Procedures

The Task Force sought to review all of the EDA's written policies and procedures relating to the Programs. In seeking that information, the Task Force discovered that in the immediate years following the passage of EOA 2013, from approximately 2013 through 2017, the EDA had virtually no written policies or procedures regarding its process for reviewing and approving applications. Although some practices and procedures have recently been memorialized in written memoranda to senior leadership and the Board, the EDA continues to lack a sufficient set of formal written policies and procedures to disseminate to personnel and ensure a consistent application review and approval processes.

Furthermore, to the extent policies have been memorialized by the EDA, we do not believe, based on the inconsistency of responses received from EDA employees when asked about such documents, that those policy documents have been consistently and comprehensively distributed amongst EDA personnel. For example, several BDOs were unaware of existing BDO checklists or flowcharts when shown during interviews. Indeed, most of the current EDA employees interviewed did not recall reviewing or receiving a training manual, memorandum, or set of written policies relating to the EDA tax incentive program approval process.

The EDA also lacks sufficient written policies detailing the roles and responsibilities of specific positions within the EDA. The Task Force received a "Grow NJ Processing Steps" chart, which was finalized in April 2015, identifying the EDA employee responsible for each step in the Grow NJ application process. However, several of the EDA employees that the Task Force interviewed had never seen this document. Moreover, the chart does not provide detail or guidance

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⁹¹ Exhibit 10.

⁹² The EDA does have a few written policies, including on the net benefit test and the factors (including the possibility an out-of-state location) affecting that test.

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on how to execute each step outlined and therefore does not provide guidance as to the roles and responsibilities for personnel.

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The Task Force observed that BDOs and underwriters rely primarily on basic "checklists" implemented in 2014, which set forth the documentation required for a complete application. These checklists, however, do not provide guidance on how EDA personnel are expected to review or analyze required documentation, which would be more helpful to the guide the process. Rather, they require only that the BDOs and underwriters confirm that the Program applicant submitted required documentation before the application was transmitted to the Underwriting group. As indicated, they do not offer guidance on what is considered adequate documentation. It appears, moreover, that at least some EDA employees believed the documents listed on the checklists were not all required to proceed with an application: a senior underwriter responsible for ERG applications described the ERG checklist, which identified "Items required prior to submission to underwriting" as including both required items and items that would be "nice to have." That same underwriter told us that, for example, the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") Certification is a "nice to have" item from this checklist, despite the clear regulatory requirement for a CEO Certification under the ERG Act. 93

2. Failure to Comprehensively Train EDA Staff

The effect of the EDA's lack of written policies and procedures was exacerbated by its failure to comprehensively train its staff while onboarding and during promotions and role transfers, or on an ongoing basis. The EDA did not comprehensively train its staff regarding: (1) the requirements and responsibilities of roles within the EDA; (2) the Programs' requirements; (3) amendments to the Programs' requirements; and (4) the EDA's implementation of the Programs' requirements. Indeed, each of the employees the Task Force interviewed confirmed that he or she did not receive any formal training when onboarded to the EDA; they also did not receive any formal training following a promotion or transfer to a new role. Rather, training was "on the job" and involved shadowing senior management and/or colleagues. In some cases, employees stated that they were provided with the relevant statutes and instructed to "familiarize themselves" with the provisions.

EDA employees also did not receive comprehensive training regarding the statutory requirements of the Programs and the Programs' subsequent amendments. Some senior EDA employees recalled that, after the EOA 2013 was passed, employees attended a training seminar or

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⁹³ The regulations governing ERG expressly require, as part of the Program's application submission requirements, a "written certification by the chief executive officer, or equivalent officer for North American operations." N.J. Admin. Code § 19:31-4.4.

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seminars with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office that provided an overview of the Programs and guidelines. However, all the interviewees indicated that the EDA did not provide subsequent trainings when new statutory amendments were passed. Although some EDA personnel recalled that senior leadership briefed EDA personnel regarding statutory and regulatory amendments and changes to the EDA's tax-incentive Programs during Pipeline Meetings, others indicated that although they might have received a copy of a regulatory amendment and had an opportunity to ask questions, they did not recall receiving formal notice or follow-up training when regulatory changes took place. Indeed, two senior underwriters stated that, when statutory or regulatory requirements were amended, underwriters simply reviewed the amended language and learned how to enforce the new amendments "on the job."

Furthermore, EDA personnel were not adequately trained to review and analyze information and documentary evidence applicants were required to submit. For example, employees did not receive training on how to review and identify problems with lease agreements, letters of intent, or requests for proposals that are consistently submitted with project applications to support proposed project locations. EDA employees generally seemed completely unaware of the kinds of documents a business would generate if it were seriously considering a move of its facilities to another state, and some appeared to be reluctant to "ask too many questions." We discuss some examples of the impact of those failures in Section V(C)(4) of this First Report below.

Finally, given the critical importance of screening applications for potential misconduct, some training in fraud detection is critical for program underwriters. Not only did the Task Force determine that the EDA provided no such training at any time, up to the present, many EDA employees we interviewed expressed the view that their vetting required them to take information at "face value."

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⁹⁴ At the Task Force's May 2, 2019 public hearing, John Boyd, a principal at a corporate site selection firm in New Jersey, testified that for a relocation of several hundred office employees, companies typically conduct a serious analysis to select the ideal location. The process often includes meetings with employees from multiple departments (including accounting, legal, human resources, and communications), memoranda and reports, and multiple site visits. Mr. Boyd testified at the Task Force's hearing that he "agree[d]" that, to determine whether a company was sincere in its considerations of a potential relocation site, there should be "a lot of documentation of [the company's] deliberations" that "the company should be able to produce." *See* Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 101:9-107:17.

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a) Inconsistent Understanding of Roles and Responsibilities

The EDA's failure to comprehensively train its staff has resulted in an inconsistent understanding of the roles and responsibilities of specific positions within the EDA. The Task Force observed that among the BDOs we interviewed, there was a broad range in the understanding of their responsibilities. All BDOs interviewed understood their role as business developers and advocates for the applicants or "clients." However, several BDOs expressed the belief that their review of applications did not require independent verification of information and required only "perusing the application" for "red flags" or "glaring errors" that would potentially disqualify an applicant. Their supervisors, on the other hand, expected their officers to also conduct preliminary due diligence on the submitted documentation and conduct independent diligence in the form of internet-based searches on the applicant, including the business, its senior leadership, and the applicant's exposure to legal risks. Unfortunately, because of a complete lack of policies concerning how to conduct internet and other public searches for such information and what to look for, the quality of such diligence varied from BDO to BDO, and application to application. Indeed, as noted above, we found important information through simple internet-based searches which BDOs missed completely, including potentially disqualifying information. 95 BDO supervisors expected BDOs to review application materials and address as many potential issues or questions in order to present a complete application to Underwriting. Although some BDOs believed their role was to both assist and scrutinize the applicant, all the BDOs understood that it was primarily the underwriter's responsibility to conduct due diligence, investigate, and verify information provided by the applicant.

Nearly all of the underwriters interviewed understood their responsibility to conduct due diligence and investigate and verify information applicants provided; however, at least one senior underwriter understood the role to be that of a "processor" who "checks off the boxes." The same underwriter believed that the underwriters needed to review applications to ensure the required documentation and materials had been submitted but did not need to assess whether applicants' representations were truthful. This approach is inconsistent with the underwriters' gatekeeping role: the underwriters are the primary means to ensuring that applications comply with the Programs' requirements.

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⁹⁵ However, the Task Force did observe other instances where BDOs did perform sufficient due diligence and identified one company's failure to disclose on its application potentially relevant lawsuits. The EDA eventually resolved the initial non-disclosure with the company.

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b) Inconsistent Understanding of the Program Requirements Concerning Camden and Atlantic City

The EDA personnel interviewed thus far have, in some important areas, exhibited inconsistent, incomplete, or inaccurate understandings of certain Program requirements, specifically with respect to (a) the circumstances in which Grow NJ applicants are required to demonstrate a risk that their jobs may be relocated outside of New Jersey and (b) the effect such a relocation risk may have on the terms of any tax incentives award.

As discussed in Section IV(A)(1)(e) of this First Report, the Grow NJ Act expressly states that a "purpose of the [Grow NJ] program is . . . to preserve jobs that currently exist in New Jersey but which are in danger of being relocated outside of the State." In most cases, Grow NJ applicants are indisputably required to demonstrate to the EDA, in order to qualify for tax incentives, that they are considering an out-of-state relocation. However, because of an ambiguity in the statute's text, it is arguable that tax incentives may be available (although only in a reduced amount, for reasons discussed below) for relocating existing New Jersey jobs to Camden or Atlantic City, even when no potential out-of-state relocation is contemplated. The EDA has on one occasion approved tax incentives for a company that relocated from within New Jersey to Atlantic City even though that company was not contemplating a possible out-of-state relocation—thus, the company was approved for tax incentives even though its jobs were not "in danger of being relocated outside of the State."

Whether or not an out-of-state relocation is strictly required under the statute for projects in Camden or Atlantic City to receive tax incentives, it is indisputable, based on a separate provision of statute, that whether or not such an out-of-state relocation is contemplated is a critical factor bearing on, at a minimum, the potential size of any award. As discussed previously, the Grow NJ Act requires that every tax incentive award be anticipated to "yield a net positive benefit to the State." In this context, the "benefit to the State" means tax revenues collectible by the State as a result of the fruition of the project for which the tax incentives were awarded—tax revenue, that is, that the State would not collect in the absence of the tax incentives. Under the statute, no tax incentive award under the Grow NJ program may be larger than the anticipated benefit to the State. If the anticipated benefit is smaller than the award that for which the applicant would otherwise be

⁹⁶ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a).

 $^{^{97}}$ As discussed previously, EOA 2013 introduced this provision with respect to Camden, and the statute was amended again in 2014 to have the provision apply to Atlantic City as well.

⁹⁸ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a)(3).

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eligible, then the award must be reduced. For example, if an applicant would otherwise be eligible for a \$50 million award for a project in Camden, but the EDA anticipates that the project will yield only \$10 million in resultant tax revenue to the State, then the applicant's award must be reduced to \$10 million only rather than \$50 million.

A company's certification that jobs are at risk of leaving the State—and thus that it is considering an out-of-state alternative—may have a critical and material effect on the net benefit test, particularly with respect to income taxes that accrue from employment. The net benefit test required by the Grow NJ Act is a statewide test that assesses benefits to the State as a whole—rather than to a particular locality within the State. When an applicant's jobs are already in New Jersey, any income taxes related to those jobs are factored into the net benefits calculation only if the jobs are at risk of being relocated out of state. There, the provision of tax incentives, which keeps the jobs in the State, provides a clear benefit to New Jersey. By contrast, if an applicant is not considering moving out of state, and a job will exist somewhere in New Jersey in any event, there can be no benefit to the State as a whole. Thus, the EDA's implementing regulations for Grow NJ provide that, for projects in Camden and Atlantic City, "[r]etained employees . . . shall not be included [in the net benefits calculation] unless the business demonstrates that the award of tax credits will be a material factor to retain the employees in the State" This rule is also set forth in several EDA policy documents.

Some EDA employees demonstrated a limited understanding of these issues. At least two EDA employees believed that, as administered by the EDA, projects moving to Camden did have to show jobs were at risk of leaving the State. Some were unclear about whether the possibility of an out-of-state relocation is strictly required as a matter of threshold eligibility (rather than a factor in award size) for projects in Camden or Atlantic City, and did not know whether the EDA had ever processed applications concerning projects in Camden or Atlantic City for which no potential out-of-state relocation was contemplated. Although the existence of a potential out-of-state relocation clearly has an effect on the net benefit test and, therefore, on the size of any potential

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⁹⁹ N.J. Admin. Code § 19:31-18.7(c).

¹⁰⁰ See Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 135:9-20 (testimony of David Lawyer, the EDA's managing director of underwriting since May 2017: "Q. And for companies that were, at the time of their application, they were already in New Jersey, does every Grow applicant need to show that the jobs were at risk, as the program was administered, does every applicant have to show that the jobs were at risk of moving out of the state? A. That is my understanding. Q. And that is true even where an application proposes to move jobs intrastate from a city outside of Camden to Camden? A. That is my understanding, yes.").

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award, at least one EDA employee misapprehended this rule. Given that the risk of jobs leaving the State is a core element of the Grow NJ program, it is important for all EDA employees responsible for processing Grow NJ programs to fully understand the pertinent issues, and EDA employees should have a firmer understanding of them.

3. Due Diligence Failures

The Task Force has found that the EDA's due diligence practices in connection with review of applications have generally been insufficient. Program applicants are required to make a number of representations in connection with their applications, both about the applicant itself and about the circumstances under which they are seeking tax incentives. Because these representations are critical to determining whether the applicant is eligible for the tax incentives requested, it is important to conduct sufficient due diligence to detect fraud, misrepresentations, or error.

Many EDA employees we interviewed did not believe independent verification of an application's accuracy or truthfulness was warranted because the EDA required an applicant's CEO to certify under penalty of perjury that the representations contained in the application were accurate and that the CEO had taken steps to ensure that the application materials were complete. However, if the answers provided by an applicant are taken at face value, without any effort to cross-corroborate or verify through public sources, applicants could easily present and certify false, misleading, or inaccurate information to the EDA without consequence.

Some EDA employees stated that they conducted internet searches regarding applicants and their senior personnel to identify potential red flags and issues, but it appears that those searches, when conducted at all, were insufficiently broad and failed to identify key information that should have raised red flags or at least warranted follow-up questions to applicants. For example, the Grow NJ application requires applicants to state whether the applicant has ever been debarred by any state or federal governmental department, agency, or instrumentality. Under the EDA's regulations, such a debarment could constitute grounds for the EDA to deny an application for tax incentives. ¹⁰¹ One company, Holtec International, represented in its application—certified by its CEO—that it had no prior history of debarment. ¹⁰² In fact, however, Holtec had previously been debarred by the Tennessee Valley Authority, a congressionally chartered corporation of the United States. The EDA then approved Holtec for a \$260 million award under Grow NJ. Had the EDA conducted cursory internet research, it could have found that Holtec's answer was inaccurate. Yet EDA

¹⁰¹ N.J. Admin. Code § 19:30-2.2(a)(1)(10).

¹⁰² See Exhibits 11 and 12.

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personnel failed to independently uncover Holtec's misrepresentation when it approved Holtec's award, one of the largest tax incentive awards in New Jersey history. 103

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Although Holtec's undisclosed debarment was potentially disqualifying, other examples abound where readily available information—if the EDA had found it—would have at least merited follow-up questions to program applicants. However, even more concerning were examples found where EDA personnel did, in fact, conduct internet searches that yielded red flags, including relevant lawsuits involving the company, but EDA failed to investigate and conduct further due diligence that could have uncovered material misrepresentations. For example, NFI, L.P. ("NFI"), submitted its Grow NJ application on October 24, 2016. It asserted that in exchange for Grow NJ tax incentives, it would continue to employ 670 employees in New Jersey rather than move the jobs to Philadelphia. NFI submitted a chart of affiliates identifying the related companies, which included NFI Industries, Inc., National Freight, Inc., and NFI Interactive Logistics, LLC. As part of its application, NFI was required to answer a series of background questions related to legal matters. The application asked whether the "applicant, any officers or directors of Applicant, or any Affiliates (collectively, the 'Controlled Group') [had] been found guilty, liable or responsible in any Legal Proceeding for any of the following violations or conduct." NFI answered "No" for each listed question, which included offenses indicating a lack of business integrity or honesty, such as fraud, and violations of the governing hours or labor, minimum wage standards, and prevailing wage standards laws. While the EDA may have a timeframe that it considers relevant for legal proceedings, the actual application does not indicate that a company should limit disclosures to a period of five or ten years. Therefore, each company is presumed to have disclosed all legal proceedings relevant to the disclosure questions regardless of whether EDA would find it impactful on a company's eligibility.

The Task Force has reviewed the application and full company file of NFI and found that the EDA was aware of at least three lawsuits related to NFI. 104 In its Grow NJ transmittal form,

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¹⁰³ Last month, Holtec acknowledged that it did not disclose its prior debarment in its application and sought to amend its application. The EDA has since suspended Holtec's tax-incentive award, pending further investigation.

¹⁰⁴ First, an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission action in which NFI paid \$45,000 to settle gender-discrimination allegations about unequal pay; second, a Department of Labor action in which NFI was ordered to pay 350 workers over \$1 million in back wages for misclassifying them as exempt from overtime; and third, a Department of Labor action in which NFI was ordered to reinstate a trucker and pay him \$276,870 after he alleged he was fired for refusing to make a trip that would have violated federal "hours of service" restrictions.



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which is an internal request for application review, an EDA BDO, listed four articles highlighting these three lawsuits under the section "Google Search of Applicants/Owners." Our review of correspondence indicates that on October 24, 2016, the EDA BDO sent an email to Mr. Sheehan of Parker McCay, who represented NFI, asking for an explanation and status of the three cases she found based on her internet search. On October 31, 2016, Mr. Sheehan responded with a brief explanation and stated that NFI disputed each claim but settled "to avoid protracted and costly litigation." The EDA BDO referred the issue and lawsuits to an EDA Senior Legislative Officer. In her correspondence, the EDA BDO highlighted for the EDA Legislative Officer that NFI answered "No" for the legal questions on their application. Based on a review of the correspondence, it appears that the EDA Legislative Officer directed the EDA BDO to request the settlement agreements from Mr. Sheehan and had further communications with Mr. Sheehan regarding details and his initial concerns regarding lawsuits involving NFI.

While the Task Force appreciates that the EDA BDO conducted initial diligence, it believes that further diligence would have unveiled a criminal conviction and guilty plea by affiliate Interactive Logistics, Inc. d/b/a NFI Interactive Logistics, Inc. and at least two additional legal proceedings. 105 The Task Force reviewed publicly available documents indicating that in November 2005, an NFI-related entity, Interactive Logistics, Inc. d/b/a NFI Interactive Logistics, Inc., pled guilty to three counts of wire fraud for defrauding Anheuser-Busch. ¹⁰⁶ In addition, the Task Force reviewed publicly available documents related to lawsuits alleging violations of wage and hours laws. The Task Force finds this concerning on numerous grounds. It further highlights potential misrepresentations by NFI, and Sidney Brown, NFI's CEO who certified on its behalf, that all information contained within the company's Grow NJ application was true. Second, it is concerning that—after the EDA questioned Mr. Sheehan and NFI about the discovered lawsuits neither he nor Brown was forthcoming about the criminal conviction or additional lawsuits, especially those of a nature required to be disclosed on the EDA application. Finally, from an EDA perspective, the Task Force believes that in-depth due diligence would have found the publicly available lawsuits. While the EDA Legislative Officer identified the need to review the settlement agreements in the lawsuits that were found, neither he nor the EDA BDO seemed appropriately concerned that at the crux of the matter, NFI's application contained potential misrepresentations

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¹⁰⁵ Interactive Logistics, Inc. v. Markel Insurance Co., No. 08-CV-1834 (D.N.J.); Brime v. Eckenrode and Interactive Logistics, LLC, No. 08-CV-0095 (E.D.V.A.) (previously captioned Brime v. Eckenrode and Interactive Logistics, Inc. t/a National Freight, Inc.).

¹⁰⁶ United States v. Interactive Logistics, Inc., No. 05-CR-00872 (D.N.J.); see Exhibit 13.

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and a potentially fraudulent CEO certification. Even more, despite learning this, the EDA approved NFI's application for an approximately \$80 million award.

4. Deficiencies in Assessing Applicants' Alternative Relocation Sites

The Task Force has investigated applicants' consideration of locations outside of New Jersey. Because a core goal of the Grow NJ program is "to preserve jobs that currently exist in New Jersey but which are in danger of being relocated outside of the State," Grow NJ applicants are required to provide information about the locations in New Jersey and other states to which they are considering relocating. The Task Force's investigation to date has found clear deficiencies in the EDA's evaluation of applicant submissions about these alternative sites. In some instances, Grow NJ applicants have made representations about a potential out-of-state alternative site that should have raised serious red flags about whether the applicant genuinely intended to move out of state, but the EDA failed to take any action to investigate the issue.

The Task Force has examined the EDA's processing of several applications of Program awardees thus far, and that investigation is ongoing. The Task Force selected certain applications to prioritize for investigation if it received information about red flags in connection with a particular application or applicant—for example, if a whistleblower indicated that there were potential concerns with a company's application or compliance with Program requirements. In some instances, however, the Task Force did not initially intend to include certain companies in its priority review, but information arising during the Task Force's investigation alerted it to potential issues that should be further examined.

As noted previously, the draft versions of the EOA 2013 that included revisions from Parker McCay were, from the Task Force's perspective, a very significant red flag. The Task Force remains skeptical that a company whose lobbyist had placed special provisions for its benefit in the tax-incentive legislation would have a legitimate business plan to move jobs to a different state. Indeed, three of these companies—Conner Strong & Buckelew Companies, LLC ("CSB"), The Michaels Organization, LLC ("TMO"), and NFI—had publicly committed to moving to Camden on September 24, 2015—thirteen months prior to their Grow NJ applications, which would seem

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¹⁰⁷ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a).

¹⁰⁸ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(d) ("When considering an application involving intra-State job transfers, the authority shall require the business to submit the following information as part of its application: a full economic analysis of all locations under consideration by the business; all lease agreements, ownership documents, or substantially similar documentation for the business's current in-State locations; and all lease agreements, ownership documents, or substantially similar documentation for the potential out-of-State location alternatives, to the extent they exist.").

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to directly belie their claim that they were considering an out-of-state move. Yet, although the Parker McCay-edited version of the EOA 2013 had, we have determined, been shared with the EDA's then President and Chief Operating Officer, Tim Lizura, we saw no evidence that Mr. Lizura considered these applications with any skepticism or alerted the BDOs and underwriters reviewing the applications to apply any heightened scrutiny themselves. We thus worried that the process may have been compromised. We therefore made our review of the EDA's oversight of some of these applications a key priority.

To compound our concerns, on March 11, 2019, the Executive Chairman of CSB and member of the Board of Trustees of The Cooper Health System ("Cooper Health"), George Norcross, III, published an Op-Ed on NJ.com. In the Op-Ed, Mr. Norcross stated, among other things, that the Programs' tax credits were intended to "convince firms to move to Camden," but "were **not intended** to entice firms that were leaving the state to remain." (Emphasis added). 110 Mr. Norcross's contention caught the Task Force's attention because, in point of fact, every application for an in-state company that proposed a move to Camden did, in fact, certify that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the State (except one that had planned to eliminate jobs if denied tax incentives), including applications from entities with affiliations to Mr. Norcross, including CSB and Cooper Health. We also learned that TMO and NFI were affiliated with Mr. Norcross in that their applications were related to CSB's application. The Op-Ed thus raised a concern about whether any of these companies had not, in fact, been considering moving out of the State at the time they applied for tax incentives under Grow NJ. The Task Force decided to review the applications for those companies and—even on a cursory review—additional concerns arose, and the Task Force determined that an examination of the EDA's oversight of these applications was appropriate.

Thus, we reviewed the applications of Cooper Health, CSB, TMO, and NFI, to examine whether the EDA gave any meaningful scrutiny to their certifications that jobs were at risk of leaving New Jersey and whether they had viable out-of-state locations that were bona fide, suitable,

¹⁰⁹ To date, we have found no direct evidence that Mr. Lizura's actions and inactions were motivated by any corrupt intent.

George E. Norcross, III, George Norcross: We need tax incentives to continue to rebuild Camden, NJ.COM, March 11, 2019, http://s.nj.com/okKoUPg.

Although Cooper Health's application indicated that jobs were not at risk of leaving the State, it subsequently informed the EDA during the course of EDA's processing of its application that—in fact—it was considering an out-of-state move to Philadelphia. These circumstances are described more fully below. The EDA did not require Cooper Health to submit a revised application, nor did it require a new certification from Cooper Health's CEO.

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and available.¹¹² After conducting this review, we found that the EDA's scrutiny of these four entities' applications was inadequate in several material respects and that, as a result, the EDA failed to discover significant problems with those applications. We describe below EDA's deficiencies in assessing these four applications.

a) The Cooper Health System

On November 7, 2014, Cooper Health applied to the EDA for tax incentives under the Grow NJ program. Just over a month later, the EDA approved Cooper Health for a tax-incentive award of \$39,990,000, in exchange for Cooper Health's relocation of certain back-office operations from various existing sites in Cherry Hill and Mt. Laurel, New Jersey to Camden, New Jersey. During the EDA's processing of Cooper Health's Grow NJ application, Cooper Health represented to the EDA that it was considering relocating its operations to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as an alternative to Camden. Based on this representation, an internal EDA memorandum recommended awarding the tax incentives to Cooper Health to "make New Jersey more competitive." However, there is significant evidence, described below, that Cooper Health's purported alternative location in Philadelphia was illusory, and the EDA failed to sufficiently investigate that possibility based on the information in its possession.

Cooper Health's tax credits were for its relocation of certain administrative functions to One Federal Street, Camden, New Jersey, in a building often referred to as the "L-3 Building." Internal Cooper Health documents indicate that Cooper Health favored the L-3 Building in Camden as a relocation site as early as March 2014, months before its November 2014 application for tax incentives: on March 28, 2014, Douglas Shirley, Cooper Health's CFO, sent an email to John Sheridan, Cooper Health's President and CEO: "I have the proposal . . . and it is very rich! From a cash flow and balance sheet [sic] the L-3 is the best deal by a long shot. No other option can touch it, so you need to be okay with this option before we go out with it." In addition, an internal Cooper Health document dated April 1, 2014, entitled "Potential Cooper Office Options," contains a chart of three possibilities for Cooper Health's office, including the L-3 Building in Camden and two other potential locations—both also in Camden. The chart does not list any potential Philadelphia location. The EDA did not request contemporary business records from Cooper Health concerning relocations it was considering, so it did not have the benefit of these documents.

¹¹² The Task Force has examined several other applications for these same purposes but has not found other instances—at this stage—where serious concerns were apparent.

¹¹³ Exhibit 14.

¹¹⁴ Exhibit 15.

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When Cooper Health initially applied to the EDA for tax incentives on November 7, 2014, it did not claim that it was considering relocating out of state. The application asked: "Are any jobs listed in the application at risk of being located outside of New Jersey?" Cooper Health answered "No." 115

On November 8, 2014, the day after Cooper Health's application was filed, Cooper Health's representative, Kevin Sheehan of the Parker McCay law and lobbying firm, sent an email to an EDA employee that processes Grow NJ applications, copying EDA's Tim Lizura, to "give . . . a heads up that Cooper Hospital filed its GrowNJ application." Mr. Sheehan added, "As you review the application, if you need anything, let me know." 116

A few days later, on November 10, 2014, the EDA employee responded to Mr. Sheehan with a list of several items the EDA needed, including a completed "Cost Benefit Analysis" (or "CBA") form. 117 The EDA's CBA forms are used by Grow NJ applicants to list certain information about the potential relocation sites the applicant is considering, and to show the difference in costs between, on the one hand, the more expensive New Jersey location for which the applicant is seeking tax incentives, and, on the other hand, the less expensive alternative location that the applicant will ostensibly relocate to if denied tax incentives in New Jersey. Responding to the EDA employee's request for a CBA form, Cooper Health's Vice President of Real Estate and Facilities, Andrew Bush, copying Kevin Sheehan, submitted to EDA on November 11, 2014, a CBA form that compared the costs of the L-3 Building in Camden, for which Cooper Health sought tax incentives, to the costs of Cooper Health's existing facilities in Cherry Hill and Mt. Laurel, New Jersey—not to the costs of any out-of-state alternative site. 118 In other words, the CBA form was consistent with Cooper Health's representation on its application that no jobs were at risk of being relocated outside of New Jersey, since the CBA listed only in-state locations as under consideration.

Two days later, on November 13, 2014, the EDA employee sent an email to Parker McCay's Mr. Sheehan: "I need to talk to you about Cooper, what time do you have today or tomorrow to talk?" 119 Mr. Sheehan responded later that day: "I have [sic] here for the rest of the day today. Let me know what time works for you." Later that night, Mr. Sheehan wrote to the EDA employee

¹¹⁵ Exhibit 16.

¹¹⁶ Exhibit 17.

¹¹⁷ Exhibit 17.

¹¹⁸ Exhibit 17.

¹¹⁹ Exhibit 18.

¹²⁰ Exhibit 18.

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again, under the subject line "Cost benefit." Mr. Sheehan wrote: "They are working on it. Will get to you ASAP." 121

Several days later, on November 18, 2014, Mr. Sheehan sent an email to the EDA employee with an updated CBA form for the Cooper Health application. That revised form compared the costs of the L-3 Building in Camden not, as previously, to the costs of Cooper Health's existing locations in New Jersey, but instead to the costs of a claimed alternative location at 1900 Market Street in Philadelphia. The CBA form stated that the purported 1900 Market Street location was 120,000 sq. ft. and cost \$23.50 per sq. ft. to rent. In other words, the revised CBA form effectively communicated to the EDA that Cooper Health was considering potential relocation sites in Camden or in Philadelphia. The Task Force interviewed the EDA employee who had these communications with Cooper Health and its representative, Mr. Sheehan. The EDA employee said that he did not recall the phone call with Mr. Sheehan, but he insisted that he would not have suggested to Cooper Health that it should claim to be considering an out-of-state relocation when it was not sincerely considering one. The EDA employee stated that he believed Cooper Health was in fact considering an out-of-state relocation.

Once all necessary documents for Cooper Health's Grow NJ application were submitted, the application was transferred to an EDA underwriter. On November 24, 2014, the EDA underwriter assigned to the application sent an email to Mr. Bush seeking "back-up on the proposed terms for each of the locations, NJ and PA, ie term sheets, letters of intent and/or draft lease agreements." The underwriter, in other words, asked Cooper Health to provide documentation of the Camden and Philadelphia locations that purportedly were under consideration for relocation.

Several days later, on December 1, 2014, Cooper Health's Mr. Bush wrote to the EDA underwriter: "Sorry for the delay in the response. . . . I am touring alternate locations in PA on Wednesday and hope to have term sheets by the end of the week." The underwriter responded: "Thanks, it is very important that I have some back-up to the lease terms as presented in the Cost Benefit analysis – it's all verbal at this point?" Mr. Bush replied: "All quoted numbers are verbal

¹²¹ Exhibit 19.

¹²² Exhibit 20.

¹²³ Exhibit 20.

¹²⁴ Exhibit 20.

¹²⁵ Exhibit 21.

¹²⁶ Exhibit 21.

¹²⁷ Exhibit 22.

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from prospective landlords in Pennsylvania. I expect to have proposals to justify the numbers by the end of the week." ¹²⁸

On December 5, 2014, Mr. Bush sent the EDA underwriter, copying the EDA employee who had previously communicated with Cooper Health, and Parker McCay's Mr. Sheehan, a lease proposal from a real estate broker, dated that same day, for space in Centre Square in Philadelphia. The proposal was for 113,756 sq. ft. in the building at 1500 Market Street, in Philadelphia's Centre Square, offered for either \$22 or \$24.75 per rentable sq. ft. depending on the terms of the lease. Mr. Bush explained in his cover email that the lease proposal was from a prospective Philadelphia landlord, and noted that "[t]he terms are slightly more aggressive than those presented in the cost benefit analysis meaning that there is more of a burden to Cooper to remain in NJ." (Emphasis added). The Task Force interviewed the EDA employees who received this email from Mr. Bush. Both EDA employees told the Task Force that, based on Mr. Bush's representation that there was a "burden to Cooper to remain in NJ" because of the purported cost savings from relocating to Philadelphia, Cooper Health was sincerely considering relocating there. The transfer of the purported cost savings from relocating to Philadelphia, Cooper Health was sincerely considering relocating there.

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¹²⁸ Exhibit 22. The Task Force has interviewed both the BDO and the underwriter responsible for the Cooper Health application. Both have indicated, credibly in our view, that they believed Cooper Health's representations that it was considering an out-of-state location as an alternative to Camden. Although Cooper Health has now publicly asserted that "the EDA, not Cooper, initiated requests for comparable leases of Philadelphia properties," both have denied this assertion. *See* Thomas W. Rubino, *Cooper Health official says the company's tax incentive award is appropriate, justified and legitimate*, NJ.COM, June 12, 2019, https://www.nj.com/opinion/2019/06/cooper-health-official-says-the-companys-tax-incentive-award-is-appropriate-justified-and-legitimate.html.

¹²⁹ Exhibit 23.

¹³⁰ Exhibit 23.

Cooper Health's CEO certification, signed by the health system's CEO, Adrienne Kirby, was dated November 11, 2014—that is, prior to Cooper Health's November 18, 2014 submission of the CBA form with a purported Philadelphia alternative location at 1900 Market Street, and also prior to Cooper Health's December 5, 2014 submission of the lease proposal for 1500 Market Street in Philadelphia. Cooper Health did not submit a new CEO certification to EDA after it changed its application in this respect. Because Cooper Health has declined to cooperate with the Task Force's investigation, the Task Force has been unable to determine what Ms. Kirby did or did not know or believe concerning Cooper Health's relocation deliberations at the time she executed the certification.

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The EDA underwriter prepared a Confidential Memorandum of Analysis, dated December 9, 2014. 132 The memorandum stated that Cooper Health had demonstrated that "rental costs in Camden are higher than leasing comparable space in Philadelphia, PA As a result, [Cooper Health] has applied for Grow NJ tax credits to offset these costs and make New Jersey more competitive." ¹³³ In the "Conclusions" section of the memorandum, the underwriter stated that Cooper Health's jobs were "at risk of being located outside of New Jersey" and that the grant of tax credits under the Grow NJ program would be "a material factor in the company's decision." ¹³⁴ The EDA underwriter also prepared a Project Summary memorandum, which similarly stated that Cooper Health was considering alternative relocation sites in Camden and Philadelphia, that hundreds of New Jersey jobs were "at risk of being located outside the State," and that Grow NJ tax credits would be "a material factor in the applicant's decision to make a capital investment and locate in Camden." 135 Under the "Conditions of Approval" section of the memorandum, it stated as Condition No. 1 that Cooper Health "has not . . . committed to remain in New Jersey." ¹³⁶ The memorandum concluded by recommending that EDA's Board "approve the proposed Grow New Jersey grant to encourage Cooper Health System to locate in Camden." The memoranda were provided to EDA's Board and, on December 9, 2014, the Board voted to approve Cooper Health to receive almost \$40 million in tax incentives.

The Task Force has found evidence that the claimed alternative site in Philadelphia was not a genuine alternative site but, rather, was created solely for the purpose of submitting evidence of an alternative site to the EDA, thereby bolstering Cooper Health's claim for tax incentives. On November 25, the day after the EDA underwriter had sent an email to Cooper Health's Andrew Bush asking for "back-up" for the locations described on Cooper Health's CBA form, including the Philadelphia location, Mr. Bush emailed a real estate broker, Jon Sarkisian at the CBRE brokerage firm, under the subject line "favor." Mr. Bush's email asked the broker to produce a term sheet for a "credible" rental location in Philadelphia that would match the space (120,000 sq. ft.) and cost

¹³² Exhibit 24.

¹³³ Exhibit 24.

¹³⁴ Exhibit 24.

¹³⁵ Exhibit 25.

¹³⁶ Exhibit 25.

¹³⁷ Exhibit 25.

¹³⁸ Exhibit 26. The Task Force notes that CBRE has been entirely cooperative with the Task Force's investigation to date. The Task Force has no reason to believe that anybody at CBRE other than the persons named in this First Report had any awareness of or improper involvement in the matters discussed herein.

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(\$23.50 per rentable sq. ft.) specifications of the Philadelphia location described in the CBA that Cooper Health had submitted to the EDA on November 18, 2014:

As part of our EDA application we need a term sheet for a potential location outside of NJ.

I need a **credible location that is LESS expensive than L3**. I think that Center Sq may be the right comp – the building is listed by CBRE Given that this building is within the CBRE family – can you get me a term sheet for 120k sf? **Quietly? No probability of us moving to Center Sq, so I don't want to make too much noise**

I need a full service number of \$24/sf or less to make the numbers work. Space can be as-is for 10 or 15 year term.

Let me know

Thanks

Andy

(Emphasis added). ¹³⁹ The obvious reference is that Mr. Bush was asking Mr. Sarkisian to provide a sham term sheet that could be supplied to the EDA as evidence of its bona fide intent to relocate outside New Jersey, when in fact Cooper Health had no such intention.

Although obviously the EDA was not copied on that email, Cooper Health's application file contained numerous red flags that should have called into question the sincerity of its statement that it was considering relocating to Philadelphia and that the cost differential between the two proposed locations presented a "burden to Cooper to remain in NJ." Cooper Health's initial application did not claim any possibility of an out-of-state relocation—and, indeed, expressly disclaimed the possibility. Only after the application was submitted to the EDA did Cooper Health provide purported evidence of an out-of-state location and claim that there was a "burden . . . to remain in NJ." Even at that point, Cooper Health made inconsistent representations about the Philadelphia site in question, first citing one address (1900 Market Street), and then citing another (1500 Market

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After Mr. Bush sent the request to Mr. Sarkisian for a "credible" location, Mr. Sarkisian responded later that day, noting that he had received the email as well as a voicemail from Mr. Bush. Mr. Sarkisian added, "I like [sic] to speak to you the numbers may not come in the area that you thought. Call me in the office tomorrow." Mr. Bush responded, "Will do." Exhibit 26.

140 Exhibit 23.



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Street). Those facts should have alerted the EDA underwriter to a potential problem, prompting additional diligence. However, the EDA failed to further investigate the facts to ensure that Cooper Health was genuinely considering relocating to Philadelphia, and that the location was bona fide, suitable, and available.

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The EDA Board approved Cooper Health for an almost \$40 million award on December 9, 2014. The Task Force requested that the EDA recalculate the award that Cooper Health could have received if it had communicated to the EDA, as it had communicated to the real estate broker, that there was "[n]o probability" of Cooper Health relocating to Philadelphia instead of Camden. Based on a recalculated net benefits analysis, the EDA concluded that Cooper Health would have qualified for only a \$7.15 million award at most. Therefore, the failures in the EDA's processing of Cooper Health's Grow NJ application appear to have resulted in over \$32 million in improperly approved tax incentives, putting aside the potential ramifications of Mr. Bush's apparent misrepresentation.

b) Conner Strong & Buckelew, The Michaels Organization, and NFI

CSB, TMO, and NFI submitted Grow NJ applications on October 24, 2016. The three companies sought tax incentives in connection with joint plans to move into a new office tower on the Delaware River waterfront of Camden, New Jersey (the "Camden Tower"). Floors 15 through 18 of the Camden Tower (110,161 sq. ft.) were allocated to CSB, floors 12 through 14 (101,511 sq. ft.) were allocated to TMO, and floors 9 through 11 (101,511 sq. ft.) were allocated to NFI. The Camden Tower was to be constructed by the Liberty Property Trust development firm.

i) Background Context

Although CSB, TMO, and NFI submitted their Grow NJ applications to the EDA in October 2016, the EDA was aware of their plans to relocate to Camden long before then.

In September 2014, more than two years before the companies filed their applications, senior EDA management held a meeting with Philip Norcross of Parker McCay and several

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¹⁴¹ Cooper Health could have potentially qualified for a larger award, but during EDA's processing of the application, Cooper Health removed a number of jobs from the application to keep the award under \$40 million. Under EDA policy, awards over \$40 million require additional scrutiny and processing time.

¹⁴² Exhibit 26.

¹⁴³ Exhibits 27, 28, and 29.

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representatives from Liberty Property Trust. The purpose of the meeting, as described in an email setting it up, was to discuss "a large office building on the Camden Waterfront." ¹⁴⁴

A year later, on September 24, 2015, CSB's Executive Chairman, George E. Norcross, III, sent an email attaching a press release to the EDA's then President and Chief Operating Officer Tim Lizura discussing Liberty Property Trust's plans for the Camden waterfront, including the Camden Tower. The press release listed "local leaders who have **committed** to investing in the project either personally or through their firms," including "George E. Norcross, III, Executive Chairman, Conner Strong & Buckelew," "John O'Donnell, President, The Michael's Organization," and "Sidney Brown, Chief Executive Officer, NFI, and his family." (Emphasis added). ¹⁴⁵

That same day, then-Governor Chris Christie, then-Mayor Dana Redd, and others hosted a major press conference announcing the Camden waterfront development at the Camden Aquarium. George Norcross attended the event. At the event, a reporter for *NJTV News* asked Mr. Norcross, "It's been reported that you're going to put \$50 million into the project, is that true?" He responded, "It's absolutely true. I **committed** to do this when I was trying to persuade one of the biggest real estate concerns in the country to become part of this effort, and we all thought that was going to be a credible act, and we're putting our money where our mouths are, and we're looking forward to being a part of it." (Emphasis added). Press coverage around that time indicated that CSB, TMO, and NFI were expected to relocate to the new Camden development. ¹⁴⁷

Internal emails from the EDA show that Mr. Lizura attended the press event, at which he spoke to at least one reporter and one representative from Liberty Property Trust, the developer of the project. But, later, when the companies were preparing their applications for tax incentives

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¹⁴⁴ Exhibit 30.

¹⁴⁵ Exhibit 31.

¹⁴⁶ See Michael Aron, Christie Announces Historic \$700 Million Redevelopment Project in Camden, NJTV NEWS, Sept. 24, 2015, https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/christie-announces-historic-700-million-redevelopment-project-in-camden/ (transcription from video).

¹⁴⁷ See, e.g., Allison Steele, *Plans for Vast New Development on Camden Waterfront*, PHILA. INQUIRER, Sept. 24, 2015, https://www.inquirer.com/philly/business/20150924_Top_developer_to_announce_Camden_waterfront_project.html (reporting, based on an anonymous source, that CSB was "considering moving its headquarters into the development" and TMO and NFI were also "expected to join the project").

¹⁴⁸ Mr. Lizura sent an email to several EDA staff members saying that he was "[h]eading down now" when he was leaving for the event. *See* Exhibit 32.

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based on representations that they were considering out-of-state locations and requested an initial assessment of the net benefits test, an EDA employee indicated that he planned to run the test assuming that no jobs were at risk of leaving the state—and Mr. Lizura directed the employee to run a preliminary assessment as if the jobs were at risk.

Specifically, on August 31, 2016, Kevin Sheehan of Parker McCay sent an email to an EDA BDO requesting that preliminary award calculations be run for CSB, TMO, and NFI. The BDO forwarded Mr. Sheehan's email to an EDA underwriting supervisor, Director of Bonds and Incentives John Rosenfeld, saying: "[These] are all the applicants that may go into the LPT [Liberty Property Trust] space at the Camden Waterfront. All three would like to know what their award could potentially be before focusing their efforts on an application for this space, especially since it's expensive." When Mr. Rosenfeld ran the numbers for two of the three companies later that day, he explained the results internally to others at EDA as follows: "I would advise caution on these numbers but, based on the extremely limited information involved, it looks like these applicants COULD have a Net Benefit of approximately \$36.8M and \$43.3M respectively." 151

A few days later, the assigned EDA BDO copied Mr. Lizura into her email chain with Mr. Rosenfeld, saying as follows: "Hi John, are these [calculations] including the new and retained job numbers that are listed below? Also Tim has requested to see the reports so he can review them as well, thanks!" Mr. Rosenfeld replied that he did not include any credit for income taxes related to jobs retained in New Jersey, because he had "assumed that this was a situation where the jobs would stay where they are in NJ without the award" Mr. Lizura flatly told Mr. Rosenfeld, "The retained jobs are at risk. Can you run them as such." (Emphasis added). ¹⁵²

Mr. Lizura's instruction to Mr. Rosenfeld to assume that the jobs were at risk, given the well-publicized commitment made by Mr. Norcross at the press conference that he attended, certainly invites skepticism. In an interview with the Task Force, Mr. Lizura said that he was merely instructing Mr. Rosenfeld to run the assessment using the numbers that Mr. Sheehan had provided and was not making a factual statement about whether the "retained jobs" were "at risk." He further indicated that, at that stage, he deferred to Mr. Sheehan about whether the jobs were "at risk" because Mr. Sheehan knew the tax-incentive programs well and understood their requirements. Mr. Lizura also stated that he viewed the statements in the September 2015 press

¹⁴⁹ Exhibit 33.

¹⁵⁰ Exhibit 33.

¹⁵¹ Exhibit 33.

¹⁵² Exhibit 33.

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release and press conference that CSB, TMO, and NFI had "committed" to the Camden waterfront development project only as a commitment to invest in the real estate project, and that he was not aware of whether CSB, TMO, or NFI had committed to relocate to Camden at any point before their applications were filed. Given the statements a year earlier that the very companies applying had "committed" to Camden, the Task Force believes that these applications should have been scrutinized, particularly given the size of the awards at stake. Indeed, despite his instruction to Mr. Rosenfeld to defer to Mr. Sheehan's numbers about at-risk jobs, Mr. Lizura indicated during this interview with the Task Force that he instructed his team to pay particular attention to the applications because they involved companies related to Mr. Norcross. Mr. Lizura did not, however, identify any particular steps he asked the team to take to scrutinize the applications, and the Task Force has found no evidence of any. In any event, Mr. Rosenfeld, after re-running the test based on Mr. Lizura's instruction, said: "With the at risk jobs, they both get to about \$88.8M in net benefit "154 The final awards were granted based substantially on that calculation.

ii) The Applications

When CSB, TMO, and NFI submitted their Grow NJ applications on October 24, 2016, notwithstanding the prior public reports that the three companies had already "committed" to relocating to Camden, the companies all stated that they were considering a potential relocation to Philadelphia as an alternative. Specifically, each company stated "Yes" in response to the application's question of whether jobs were at risk of being located outside of New Jersey and listed "Pennsylvania" as in competition with New Jersey for the jobs. Each company stated, in virtually identical language, that the company's "business is expanding and requires additional space. If the credits are not awarded, the business will seek to relocate at a less expensive location outside of New Jersey." Each company's application stated that the company had retained real

¹⁵³ Even if CSB's, TMO's, and NFI's only "commitment" was to invest in the real estate project, and not to relocate their offices there, as Mr. Lizura claims to have believed, it nonetheless is difficult to understand why a different understanding would not emerge once the companies filed their applications and indicated their intent to relocate there. The EDA had the authority to request documentation from CSB, TMO, and NFI that would have revealed the nature of the "commitment" the companies had made and when they made it, but the EDA failed to exercise such authority.

¹⁵⁴ Exhibit 33.

¹⁵⁵ Exhibits 27, 28, and 29.

¹⁵⁶ Exhibits 27, 28, and 29.

¹⁵⁷ Exhibits 27, 28, and 29.



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estate brokers "to identify Class A office space in Philadelphia." Real estate proposal letters from real estate brokers for Philadelphia space for each company were attached to the applications. However, TMO's and NFI's proposal letters for space in Philadelphia had already expired by the time the applications were filed. (CSB's proposal letter did not specify an expiration date.)

On November 18, 2016, the EDA underwriter assigned to the three companies' applications sent an email to Kevin Sheehan of Parker McCay, who represented all three companies, to ask whether the companies still had valid offers for space in Philadelphia, because the real estate proposal letters submitted with the companies' applications appeared to have expired. The underwriter followed up ten days later, also asking Mr. Sheehan to clarify how many employees at the three companies were at risk of moving out of New Jersey. Mr. Sheehan replied that "[a]ll employees are at risk in all 3 companies." On November 30, 2016, Mr. Sheehan sent the EDA underwriter a new real estate proposal letter for CSB, dated December 1, 2016, outlining a proposal for space in Philadelphia. The December 1, 2016 real estate proposal differed significantly from the prior real estate proposal that CSB had submitted with its application. The initial proposal offered approximately 150,000 sq. ft. of space on the third through seventh floors, and the eleventh and twelfth floors, of the building located at 1601 Market Street in Pennsylvania. CSB's new letter offered the company "approximately 110,000" sq. ft. of space on the third through seventh floors and the thirteenth floor of the building. The letter stated that it would expire on December 31, 2016.

Two months later, on March 1, 2017, Mr. Sheehan sent the EDA underwriter new real estate letters for NFI and TMO, outlining proposals for both companies for space at 1500 Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia. Both real estate proposals differed from the initial, expired proposals that the companies submitted with their applications in respects, but the changes with respect to TMO's proposals were significant. TMO's initial real estate proposal, dated August 30, 2016, had offered

¹⁵⁸ Exhibits 27, 28, and 29.

¹⁵⁹ Exhibits 34, 35, and 36.

¹⁶⁰ Exhibit 37.

¹⁶¹ Exhibit 38.

¹⁶² Exhibit 38.

¹⁶³ Exhibit 39.

¹⁶⁴ Exhibit 34.

¹⁶⁵ Exhibit 39.

¹⁶⁶ Exhibits 40 and 41.



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the company 103,491 sq. ft. of space on the second floor of 1500 Spring Garden Street. ¹⁶⁷ The proposal further stated that, in the alternative, TMO was offered 103,710 sq. ft. of space on the first and seventh floors of the building. ¹⁶⁸ TMO's second real estate proposal, dated February 28, 2017, offered the company 95,928 sq. ft. of space divided between the basement level, two separate suites on the first floor, a suite on the seventh floor, and another suite on the twelfth floor. ¹⁶⁹ The proposal letter also stated that the space on the seventh floor—which comprised approximately a third of the total space offered to TMO—was "encumbered by a Right of First Offer in favor of [another company]." ¹⁷⁰ Both NFI's and TMO's real estate proposal letters stated that they would expire on March 24, 2017. ¹⁷¹

The differences between CSB's, NFI's, and TMO's first and second sets of real estate proposal letters for Philadelphia are summarized below:

Company	CSB 1601 Market Street		NFI 1500 Spring Garden Street		TMO 1500 Spring Garden Street	
Address						
Proposal	First ¹⁷²	Second ¹⁷³	First ¹⁷⁴	Second ¹⁷⁵	First ¹⁷⁶	Second ¹⁷⁷
Date	8/29/2016	12/1/2016	8/29/2016	2/28/2017	8/30/2016	2/28/2017
Total sq. ft.	153,345	~110,000	103,491	93,308	103,491 OR 103,710	95,928
Floors	3-7, 11-12	3-7, 13	2	2	2 OR 1,7	Basement, 1, 7, 12
Expiration	Unspefd.	12/31/2016	9/9/2016	3/24/2017	9/9/2016	3/24/2017

¹⁶⁷ Exhibit 35.

¹⁶⁸ Exhibit 35.

¹⁶⁹ Exhibit 41.

¹⁷⁰ Exhibit 41.

¹⁷¹ Exhibits 40 and 41.

¹⁷² Exhibit 34.

¹⁷³ Exhibit 39.

¹⁷⁴ Exhibit 36.

¹⁷⁵ Exhibit 40.

¹⁷⁶ Exhibit 35.

¹⁷⁷ Exhibit 41.

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The EDA underwriter prepared Project Summary memoranda based on the information provided by the companies. 178 Each company's memorandum stated that the company was considering between relocation in the Camden Tower or an alternative location in Philadelphia, that their New Jersey jobs were "at risk of being located outside the State," and that Grow NJ tax credits would be a "material factor" in the company's decision whether to locate in Camden. ¹⁷⁹ Under the "Conditions of Approval" section of each memorandum, it stated as Condition No. 1 that the company "has not . . . committed to remain in New Jersey." 180 Each memorandum concluded by recommending that EDA's Board "approve the proposed Grow New Jersey grant to encourage [the respective company] to locate in Camden." The memoranda were provided to EDA's Board and, on March 24, 2017, the Board voted to approve CSB, TMO, and NFI for total tax incentive awards of almost \$245 million—\$86,239,720 for CSB, \$79,378,750 for TMO, and \$79,377,980 for NFI.

The Task Force has discovered evidence appearing to indicate that the three companies did not genuinely consider Philadelphia as an alternative location to Camden. In August 2016, only a few months before submitting their applications, and almost a year after the press conference during which their "commitment" to the Camden project was reported, Kevin Sheehan appears to have reached out to a real estate broker, Ken Zirk at CBRE, to solicit offers for real estate in Philadelphia. After the initial outreach, the companies collaborated to obtain proposals for Philadelphia real estate to submit to the EDA, and NFI led the efforts on behalf of all companies.

On August 26, 2016, NFI's Chief Financial Officer, Steven Grabell, sent an email to TMO's Chief Financial Officer, Joseph Purcell, and CSB's Chief Financial Officer, John Muscella, to explain that he had authorized the real estate broker "to proceed full speed ahead with getting a proposal for 1500 Spring Garden." 182 NFI's Mr. Grabell wrote that the building located at 1500 Spring Garden Street was large enough for both NFI and one other company to obtain proposals from, and further, the real estate broker had "identified an additional possibility for 95,000 square feet at 1601 Market" that the third company "could use." 183

¹⁷⁸ Exhibits 42, 43, and 44.

¹⁷⁹ Exhibits 42, 43, and 44.

¹⁸⁰ Exhibits 42, 43, and 44.

¹⁸¹ Exhibits 42, 43, and 44.

¹⁸² Exhibit 45.

Exhibit 45. Meanwhile, Mr. Zirk reached out to another broker who represented the landlord for 1601 Market Street. Mr. Zirk's note, expressing interest in the building on behalf of CSB, was forwarded to the building's landlord, who was surprised by the request: "This does not make any sense, we get on Friday afternoon a [request for proposal] that is due on Monday? Where is this



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Several days later, on August 29, 2016, NFI's Mr. Grabell wrote to Mr. Zirk, the real estate broker, to ask when the companies would be getting term sheets for the 1500 Spring Garden and 1601 Market properties in Philadelphia. 184 Later that day, Mr. Zirk sent one proposal letter, for NFI alone, for 1500 Spring Garden Street. 185 That evening, Parker McCay's Mr. Sheehan wrote to the group of CFOs for the three companies and the broker, noting that the proposal was for NFI and asking, "Is there one for Michaels?" ¹⁸⁶ In response, NFI's Mr. Grabell stated: "Enough space for Michael's in that building as well. I think it would be a little suspicious to ask for a duplicate. Any thoughts?" (Emphasis added). 187 TMO's Mr. Purcell responded and wrote that he had understood that all three of the companies were "going with the 1500 Spring Garden Property." ¹⁸⁸ However, in view of the concern that it would be "a little suspicious" for multiple companies to claim the same alternative location in Philadelphia, TMO's Mr. Purcell wrote that he would be willing for TMO "to go with" a different location in another city entirely—Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, instead of Philadelphia—if one of the other two companies requested it. 189 NFI's Mr. Grabell replied that "1500 Spring Garden has space for 2 of us, but not 3. That is why we reached out to 1601 Market." 190 Mr. Grabell asked Mr. Zirk whether he would "feel comfortable getting a similar quote for Michael's for 1500 Spring Garden?" 191 Mr. Zirk responded that he would discuss with the landlord's broker "tomorrow first thing." ¹⁹² TMO ultimately obtained a

tenant from? How would we not have known about a 100,000 SF prospects [sic]?" The broker responded with a lengthy explanation, noting, among other things, that CSB's "principal, George Norcross, is a major political figure in South Jersey & very well connected locally." The broker wrote to the landlord that CSB "had been attempting to [relocate to] Camden with Liberty Property Trust but the deal apparently got too expensive & they didn't get the tax breaks/incentives that they were seeking," so CSB had decided to move the jobs to Philadelphia instead. Exhibit 46. In fact, however, CSB had not yet applied for tax incentives in New Jersey at that point, let alone been rejected for them.

¹⁸⁴ Exhibit 47.

¹⁸⁵ Exhibit 47.

¹⁸⁶ Exhibit 48.

¹⁸⁷ Exhibit 48.

¹⁸⁸ Exhibit 48.

¹⁸⁹ Exhibit 48.

¹⁹⁰ Exhibit 48.

¹⁹¹ Exhibit 48.

¹⁹² Exhibit 48.

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proposal letter for 1500 Spring Garden, and CSB obtained a proposal letter for 1601 Market Street, which both companies submitted with their applications in October 2016.

Although the EDA did not have access to the companies' emails with the real estate broker, which the Task Force obtained, there were nonetheless clear red flags in CSB's, TMO's, and NFI's EDA application and in the public record that should have caused EDA personnel to question the three companies' statements that they were considering relocating out of the State. As discussed above, there were public statements, of which senior EDA leadership was aware, indicating that the three companies had already "committed" to relocate to Camden long before they claimed to be considering relocating to Philadelphia. Despite these public statements, EDA leadership appear to have instructed EDA staff that the companies' jobs were "at risk."

In addition, at the Task Force's public hearing on May 2, 2019, the current Managing Director of the EDA's the Underwriting department, David Lawyer (who did not work on these applications and was not responsible for the Grow NJ program at the time they were processed) testified that it was "unusual" for companies to submit expired proposal letters with their tax incentive applications, and the fact that the letters had expired when they were submitted "casts doubt on whether that site [was] available." 193 Mr. Lawyer also testified that the changes to the amount and the configuration of the space in TMO's alternative-site proposal, as well as the fact that a significant portion of the space was encumbered by a right of first offer, raised red flags about the sincerity of the company's consideration of the property. 194 Mr. Lawyer testified that, in his view, the issues with CSB's, TMO's, and NFI's real estate proposals raised serious questions, "because . . . there's a pattern." Similarly, John Boyd, an expert in corporate site selection, testified that it is common for companies considering relocation to negotiate for extended offer periods to provide adequate time to assess the suitability of potential real estate. 196 That these companies did not do so but instead submitted expired real estate offers, therefore, was a red flag. Mr. Boyd further testified that in his experience, barring extraordinary circumstances like emergency relocation after a natural disaster, companies never want office space spread out over noncontiguous floors of a building of the sort TMO was purportedly considering, spread out across

¹⁹³ Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 150:4-25, 162:12-16.

¹⁹⁴ Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 163:12-17, 164:14-19.

¹⁹⁵ Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 164:23-165:6.

¹⁹⁶ Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 108:10-109:6.

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four separate floors, including the building's basement. ¹⁹⁷ The EDA staff, however, took no action to further investigate based on these and other red flags.

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In 2017, the EDA approved CSB, TMO, and NFI for almost \$245 million in tax incentive awards collectively—approximately \$86.2 million for CSB, \$79.4 million for TMO, and \$79.4 million for NFI. The Task Force requested the EDA recalculate the awards the three companies could have received if they had communicated to the EDA that they were not considering any potential relocation to Philadelphia instead of Camden—which, based on the evidence discussed above, appears to have likely been the truth. Based on recalculated net benefits analyses, the EDA concluded that CSB's award would have stayed the same (\$86.2 million), that TMO would have qualified for only a \$60.8 million award at most (rather than \$79.4), and that NFI would have qualified for only a \$27.2 million award at most (rather than \$79.4). Therefore, the EDA's failure to investigate the red flags in these companies' applications could have resulted in over \$70 million in improperly approved tax-incentive awards.

5. Lack of Proper Reporting Channels

The EDA does not have official reporting channels in place for the processing, review and recording of internal or external complaints about Program awardees or applicants and does not maintain a "hotline" or reporting line for outside parties to report potential misconduct related to the EDA's tax incentive or other programs. The absence of such reporting mechanisms makes it more likely that misconduct—whether on the part of EDA employees or companies—will be missed.

Several EDA employees we interviewed suggested that external complaints or tips should be elevated to an individual in Human Resources or the Deputy Attorney General, but there was no official reporting line or process for ensuring that all complaints and tips were carefully considered and escalated to the appropriate individuals. Nor was there an official record of such complaints or tips maintained within the EDA. Two BDOs we interviewed recalled outreach from FBI agents regarding a potentially fraudulent application. Those BDOs recalled that the information was generally "disseminated" amongst the directors and Deputy Attorney Generals, but there was no formal system for tracking flagged companies. In another instance, a local contact advised a BDO Program Manager that a Grow NJ awardee had recently fired 80 employees—or 30% of its workforce. The Program Manager who received this notice recalled that he referred the information to the Director of Portfolio Management and Compliance but was not involved in any further action. The Managing Director of Business Development indicated that there was no policy regarding how to treat this type of information but believed the information would have been "socialized" within

¹⁹⁷ Hr'g Tr. (May 2, 2019) at 109:11-110:8.



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the EDA and referred to the Portfolio Management and Compliance group if it involved a tax incentive grant recipient. Although we believe that, in the latter example, the information ultimately reached the appropriate individuals, an express policy regarding the steps required to process and record this type of information would substantially improve the EDA complaint processing to ensure that information from outside parties regarding potential misconduct is not missed.

VI. THE ACCELERATED RECERTIFICATION PROGRAM (THE "ARP")

A. Introduction

As discussed above, in order to fully investigate the administration of the Programs, the Task Force undertook to examine the EDA's processing of awards for companies that applied for and received tax-incentive credits under the Programs. Given the findings of the Comptroller's audit, moreover, the Task Force has sought to determine whether each company in scope was compliant with applicable statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements when the EDA approved its application and when it received tax credits under Grow NJ or ERG. To facilitate an investigation and review process that promotes resource efficiency, collaboration with companies, and expedient processing for compliant companies, the Task Force established the ARP. During its initial outreach and communications with companies in scope, the Task Force received overwhelming interest in the ARP. As a result, the Task Force announced the ARP during its first public hearing on March 28, 2019.

Without an expedited process of the sort provided by ARP, the Task Force would have conducted a broader investigation into each company's award. This could have included expansive document requests, interviews of relevant company personnel, and extensive document and data review. As an alternative, the ARP provides companies a streamlined process to proactively establish that they are in compliance with the Programs' requirements. If a company declined to participate in the ARP, or if the Task Force deemed it ineligible, the company's award is subject to the broader investigative process necessary to carry out the Task Force's mission.

B. ARP Participant Companies

The Task Force deems companies eligible for the ARP if the company (1) completes and submits an initial affidavit (the "ARP Initial Affidavit") and (2) the Task Force has not received or identified information suggesting misconduct, fraud, or other non-compliance with applicable requirements with respect to the company's application for, approval for, or issuance of tax incentives.



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The Task Force requires each company's CEO, or equivalent personnel, to execute the ARP Initial Affidavit, which provides additional company information to the Task Force. The ARP Initial Affidavit requires companies to describe their efforts to comply with the Task Force's document preservation directive and to identify document custodians and third parties that may possess relevant documents. Companies must also agree to voluntarily and promptly produce relevant documents to the Task Force. As of the date of this Report, 53 companies have pursued participation in the ARP. Despite the overwhelming participation in ARP, we note that approximately 8 otherwise eligible companies expressly declined to participate in the ARP. We appreciate that each company operates under a different set of resources, frameworks, and stakeholders. Therefore, we emphasize that at this time, we cannot—and have not—drawn any conclusions about companies that did not elect to participate in the ARP.

There have been several instances where companies sought inclusion into the ARP, but their eligibility is still under consideration by the Task Force for myriad reasons. In some instances, the Task Force has become aware of concerning information regarding the company's application or award. For example, for a number of companies, the Task Force has learned through independent evidence and information that the company's assertions regarding its intention to relocate are questionable. In these cases, proposed jobs may not have actually been at risk of leaving or locating outside of New Jersey, contrary to the companies' representations to the EDA. The Task Force reserved the option to investigate further before allowing the companies in question to participate in the ARP.

For other companies, the Task Force has become aware of information suggesting that these companies committed to locate in New Jersey before they submitted their EDA application. In other circumstances, the Task Force is aware of information suggesting misrepresentations or misconduct in connection with the jobs requirements of the award. In these cases, the Task Force reserved the ability to further investigate and review written responses and assertions made to the EDA to determine whether a company's application contained misrepresentations.

Several companies that exhibited threshold issues of the sort described above submitted the ARP Initial Affidavit. In the interest of transparency and continued cooperation, the Task Force contacted these companies to discuss obstacles to their ability to participate in the ARP. In many instances, companies were not deterred by this message and have continued to work with the Task Force to provide requested documents and information. The Task Force is reviewing this information before confirming the companies' categorization going forward.

Finally, there is a tranche of companies that the Task Force disqualified or deemed ineligible for ARP participation. The Task Force has disqualified companies where the Task Force has

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identified a reasonable basis to believe that further investigation may reveal instances of misconduct, fraud, violations of applicable requirements, or other issues suggesting the company's lack of good faith. Separately, the Task Force may also disqualify companies where they fail to comply with the Task Force's requests or the ARP requirements.

C. ARP Process

In order to establish a process that would enable it to determine whether a company was in compliance with Program requirements, the Task Force carefully reviewed related statutes, EDA regulations and requirements, and met with key EDA personnel to determine exactly what it means "to be compliant." Thereafter, the Task Force created a framework for information requests, document collection, and interviews that would provide adequate information for the Task Force to review and make a determination of compliance with Program requirements. The Task Force has taken care to continue an open dialogue with each participating company to better understand the company's framework, business, and key stakeholders. Accordingly, while the Task Force has established a process for the ARP, it also is working collaboratively with each company, with an understanding that each company's documentation, application, and purported needs for the tax incentives vary significantly.

From a process perspective, once companies submit the ARP Initial Affidavit and are deemed eligible by the Task Force, the Task Force requests certain written responses, with supporting documents where necessary ("Verifying Documents"), related to each company's application. The Task Force's ARP for Grow NJ requires the company to submit additional documentation related to the company's good faith business plan to relocate or locate in New Jersey, its plan for new or retained full-time jobs, and its expenditures comprising its capital investment. The Task Force's ARP for ERG requires submission of documentation related to the project's financing gap and development and the project developer's good standing. While the ARP requires documentation beyond what the EDA requested, these requests are narrowly tailored to identify representative materials that will allow the Task Force to examine the company's application and award. As part of the review process, the Task Force engages in open communication with the company for clarifications, context, and additional information.

A company must provide a final affidavit from its CEO, or equivalent personnel, ("Verification Affidavit") and the requested Verifying Documents. To assist companies, the Task Force provides a template Verification Affidavit that the company tailors to its specific

¹⁹⁸ For example, to assess the company's good faith intentions to locate to New Jersey, the Task Force requests contemporaneous business records or communications discussing the relocation plan and the suitability of the proposed alternative site.

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circumstances. Thereafter, the company submits a draft affidavit. The Task Force reviews the information supplied to determine whether the company applied for its tax-incentive in good faith and with accurate information; met the application's requirements; and complied with the program requirements for each and every subsequent year it participated in the Programs. If the Task Force can make these determinations based on the information the company provides, the Task Force will accept a final Verification Affidavit. Upon successful completion of ARP, the Task Force will send a verifying closing letter ("Closing Letter"), confirming the company's successful recertification. ¹⁹⁹

D. Initial Findings

The ARP process has provided the Task Force with opportunities to identify deficiencies with the Programs' designs and with the EDA processes to implement the Programs. By engaging with companies in the ARP and by collecting, reviewing, and analyzing information and data from the company's internal deliberations, the Task Force has been able to evaluate the requirements and EDA regulations from the company perspective.

Based on this examination, the Task Force has determined that both the existing legislation and the EDA requirements are ambiguous in certain respects that has impacted the EDA's ability to ensure consistency in how these requirements are applied across project applicants. Some examples include:

• EDA verification of cost benefit analysis: An ARP company explained that after it submitted its application materials and cost benefit analysis, the EDA did not request any support for the line-item estimates in the company's cost benefit analysis, which showed that New Jersey was more expensive than the proposed alternate location. The company agreed that at the time of its application, the EDA had no verification that the line items in

¹⁹⁹ However, the Task Force's Closing Letter has no binding effect on any other agency or office of the State of New Jersey. Moreover, should the Task Force become aware of credible reason to believe there was misconduct, the Task Force reserves the right to make such information known to other law enforcement agencies.

²⁰⁰ We understand that the EDA has, in the last year or so, begun to implement solutions to these deficiencies through its own processes and approval requirements.

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its proposed estimate were accurate and not exaggerated, estimated, or manipulated in any way. 201

- Clear legislative guidance and definitions for award bonuses categories: After another ARP company submitted its initial application to the EDA, the EDA questioned whether it qualified as a technology business for the purposes of an award bonus. Under the Grow NJ statute as amended by EOA 2013, "technology" is a "targeted industry" such that qualifying "technology" companies are eligible for an additional grant of up to \$500 annually per job. However, neither the Grow NJ statute, nor EDA's implementing regulations, nor any policy documents maintained by EDA define what constitutes a "technology" company. Based on the Task Force's review, the Task Force found that EDA employees struggled over the appropriate characterization for the company.
- EDA requirements related to applicants' submissions regarding potential alternative locations: The EDA has not consistently required applicants to submit the same materials regarding the viability of the proposed alternative site.

VII. RECAPTURE

The Task Force seeks to achieve not only recommendations for the tax-incentive programs prospectively but to recommend recapture of improperly credited taxpayer dollars. These recommendations and efforts for recapture have involved cooperation and coordination with several areas of New Jersey State government, including the EDA, the Department of Taxation, and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

A. Statutory Recapture Process

The current Grow NJ legislation specifically sets forth language identifying the EDA's authority to recapture tax-incentive awards under certain circumstances.

Under the Grow NJ Act, applicants must enter into an incentive agreement with the EDA before the awardees receives any tax credits. One of the required provisions of this incentive agreement is that the applicant commits to remaining in its New Jersey facility for a minimum period of time. Typically, this period would include a ten-year term, during which the company

²⁰¹ The Task Force closely examined supporting information provided by the company, including the actual costs accrued after the company successfully received its grant and moved to New Jersey, and found no indication that the proposed analysis was made in bad faith.

²⁰² See N.J. Stat. §§ 34:1B-246(c)(8), 34:1B-243 ("targeted industry" definition).

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receives its award amount as annual credits, plus an additional five years after all annual credits are issued. ²⁰³ The statute further requires that if the company fails to honor this commitment, the EDA may recapture all or part of the tax credits awarded, although EDA retains the discretion to recognize the period of time that the company complied with the award requirements. ²⁰⁴

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B. Task Force Recommendations for Recapture

The Task Force has instituted its own processes to recommend recapture of tax-incentive awards and to assist the EDA with its recapture of tax-incentive awards.

When companies have indicated a willingness to cooperate and disclose any potential non-compliance, the Task Force has offered, and will continue to recommend and connect the company with the State Treasury for settlement. The Task Force considers such settlement recommendations based on the company's specific factual circumstances. However, for the Task Force to consider a settlement recommendation, the company must be willing to agree to several terms. First, the company must voluntarily terminate its tax-incentive award, including taking all steps that the EDA requires for the company to terminate its award. Second, the company must repay the value of the tax-incentive benefit already claimed. Third, if it becomes aware of credible evidence of criminal misconduct relating to the tax-incentive programs, the Task Force reserves its right to make such information known to other enforcement authorities. Finally, any settlement agreement with a State agency does not bind any other agency or office of the State of New Jersey. Companies that settle do not admit to any liability.

Separate from potential settlements, the Task Force has also referred, and will continue to refer, certain companies and awards to the EDA to consider whether additional credits should issue or whether previously received credits should be recaptured. The Task Force may also refer companies to appropriate law enforcement authorities for further investigation. Should law enforcement authorities pursue a criminal investigation and charges, this could generate sufficient evidence that a company's award was improperly awarded.

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²⁰³ See N.J. Stat. Ann. § 34:1B-243 (defining the "eligibility period" as "the period in which a business may claim a tax credit," beginning with the first year the company certifies for a credit but that the term will be no longer than 10 years); *Id.* (defining "commitment period" as "1.5 times the eligibility period").

²⁰⁴ See N.J. Stat. Ann. § 34:1B-245(d); see also N.J. Admin. Code § 19:31–18.10(b)(3).



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Currently, the Task Force has referred a number of applicants for suspension /or termination of their tax-incentive awards or obtained voluntary termination. In all, the aggregate amount of the grants at issue exceeds \$500 million.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Order No. 52 called for the Task Force to offer advice concerning the future of New Jersey's tax-incentive programs. Although the Task Force's work remains ongoing, its investigation and analysis to date have revealed certain deficiencies in the design, implementation, and oversight of the Programs now in place. Based on its findings, the Task Force offers the following recommendations with respect to the State's current and future tax-incentive programs, which will be supplemented as the Task Force's work continues.

Recommendation 1: The Task Force's investigation to date has found that special interests have had a significant hand in molding the current Programs' legislation and implementing regulations in their favor. As a result, in certain respects, the Programs have not been "neutral" in their design but have instead been structured to favor the business interests of certain parties, and in some cases to disfavor other parties. Future tax-incentive legislation should be designed to ensure that legitimate public policy goals are applied neutrally, without favoring specific business interests.

Recommendation 2: Future tax-incentive legislation should be transparent with respect to the benefits or costs of the programs. Under the current Grow NJ program, all tax incentive awards are statutorily required to "yield a net positive benefit to the State." Based on this statutory provision, the State should profit from the program. However, this requirement is undermined by provisions of the statute allowing the benefits calculation to include the value of certain taxes that the State will never actually collect. By allowing such so-called "phantom taxes" to be included in the benefits calculation, the "net positive benefit to the State" that is supposed to be required by the law may be rendered illusory, obfuscating the potential costs of the tax incentives and contributing to public confusion.

Recommendation 3: To further promote transparency and public understanding, the goals of future tax-incentive legislation should be clearly defined, and the program should be structured to effectuate those explicit goals—not other unspecified aims. Currently, the Grow NJ Act expressly states that a "purpose of the [Grow NJ] program is . . . to preserve jobs that currently exist

²⁰⁵ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a)(3).



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in New Jersey but which are in danger of being relocated outside of the State." However, as discussed in Section IV(A)(1)(e) of this First Report, certain provisions of the Grow NJ Act are sufficiently vague that companies may be able to receive tax credits for relocating existing jobs in New Jersey to Camden or Atlantic City, even if the jobs were never "in danger of being relocated outside the State." Tax incentives in these circumstances clearly do not advance the statutory aim of preserving jobs in the State. If it was also an intended purpose of Grow NJ to incentivize the relocation of existing jobs from other parts of New Jersey to Camden or Atlantic City, it would have aided public understanding to set out this purpose explicitly in the statute, along with the other intended purposes.

Recommendation 4: Relatedly, the Task Force's examination has found that the current statutory text for the Programs contains ambiguities in certain respects. This is illustrated by the issues relating to the "material factor" test that applies to projects in Camden and Atlantic City. It also applies in other areas: for example, as discussed in Section VI(D) of this First Report, there was one instance in which it was unclear whether a company qualified under certain provisions of Grow NJ for "technology" companies—a statutory term that is not defined in the law. Ambiguities in statutory text are inevitable. However, when such ambiguities arise in the administration of a statute, the responsible agency should both determine the resolution of the issue and further publicize its decision so that the rules are clear and known and are applied consistently. When the EDA addresses statutory ambiguities such as this one, it should embody its decisions in published rules (whether in the form of regulations, formal policies, or other guidance documents) that are available to the public.

Recommendation 5: Future legislation should be designed to ensure that the EDA can better control whether companies that meet the employment or other requirements for only a small portion of their commitment period are eligible to receive their full annual award. It should also include provisions ensuring that companies cannot receive a full year's award without meeting the requirements for a full year, and without providing a full year's worth of data to prove their compliance.

Recommendation 6: The EDA should issue comprehensive written policies and procedures to guide its employees in administering the Programs and should implement formal internal training mechanisms with respect to all aspects of the current Programs and any future taxincentive programs. Although the Task Force fully appreciates that the Programs are complex and often amended, the Task Force's investigation to date has nonetheless found undeniable

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²⁰⁶ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a).

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deficiencies in certain EDA employees' understandings of the applicable requirements in various respects. The EDA's shortfall in the issuance of regulations and policy and guidance documents likely contributed to these deficiencies, as it limited the resources available to these employees.

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Recommendation 7: As described above, the Task Force, third parties, and the media have all discovered significant and adverse information about program applicants, much of which required very little effort. Thus, it seems quite clear that—whatever the EDA's underwriters are doing in the way of independent research on applicants—the work has been deficient. Moreover, the notion of awarding applicants millions, tens of millions, or even hundreds of millions of dollars in tax incentives without a rigorous background check on the company, its officers, and affiliates defies common sense. Thus, we strongly urge that any new legislation include a provision directing the EDA to use a qualified professional services firm to conduct rigorous background checks.

Recommendation 8: With respect to the specific issue of assessing an applicant's representation that the applicant is considering locating outside of New Jersey, the Task Force's investigation to date has found clear deficiencies in the EDA's assessments. There have been instances in which Grow NJ applicants have made representations concerning the possibility of an out-of-state location that should have raised serious red flags concerning the applicant's sincerity, and yet the EDA failed to take any action to investigate the issue. As discussed above, the Grow NJ Act explicitly states that a "purpose of the [Grow NJ] program is . . . to preserve jobs that currently exist in New Jersey but which are in danger of being relocated outside of the State."207 If tax incentives are awarded to incentivize a company to stay in the State when the company never actually intended to leave, then public funds are essentially wasted. The Task Force has found, however, that the EDA's administration of the Grow NJ program has in many ways not sufficiently appreciated this principle. The EDA should improve its performance with respect to this aspect of the program, including by providing clear guidance and training to employees on how to conduct such assessments and instructing them on the importance of this issue. The EDA should provide its employees with a clear framework to apply in assessing applicant representations concerning alternative locations.

Recommendation 9: Grow NJ applicants are required to include certifications, signed by the company's CEO (or an equivalent officer), representing that the CEO "has reviewed the information submitted to the [EDA in connection with the application] and that the representations contained therein are accurate." However, issues may arise when a company modifies its

²⁰⁸ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(d).

²⁰⁷ N.J. Stat. § 34:1B-244(a).

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Governor

application at some point after it is submitted, but does not submit a new CEO certification attesting to the truthfulness of the new information. The EDA should have a formal policy or regulation requiring the submission of a new CEO certification whenever an application is materially changed after its submission.

IX. NEXT STEPS

As we noted at the outset, the Task Force is continuing its investigation. It will continue to review documents it has received in response to requests to the EDA and third parties, and to interview witnesses to gain a deeper understanding of any flaws in the design, implementation, or administration of the programs. Among other things, the Task Force intends to:

- Hold further public hearings in which the public will have the opportunity to share its views and perspectives;
- Focus its investigation on the design, implementation, and administration of the ERG Program;
- Continue its investigation of the EDA's oversight over Grow NJ and ERG applications;
- Consider additional ways to make the application and compliance verification process more robust;
- Continue the re-certification process for companies participating in the ARP; and
- Continue its efforts to recapture tax-incentive awards where warranted and, as necessary, make additional referrals to the appropriate enforcement authorities.

In addition, the Task Force will examine the impacts of certain aspects of the Programs that may differ from other states' programs, from prior New Jersey tax-incentive programs, or from best practices described by policy experts. In that regard, the Task Force intends to further examine the policy recommendations made by two of the experts that testified during the first day of the public hearings, Josh Goodman, Senior Officer for State Fiscal Health, at The Pew Charitable Trust, and Jon Whiten, Deputy Director of State Communications at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. In particular, the Task Force intends to explore:

- Whether the State should consider targeting its tax incentives to businesses that will
 increase the State's economic growth by serving national and international markets,
 rather than local markets;
- Whether the State should shorten the timeframes for receiving tax incentives, in an effort to spend less on incentives while achieving the same impact, and to enable it to better predict the costs and benefits of awarding incentives to businesses;



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- Whether the Programs' approach to awarding tax incentives in distressed areas sufficiently benefits the residents of those areas and what steps, if any, could be taken to fine tune New Jersey's approach to using tax incentives to help economically distressed areas to ensure that residents of distressed areas actually benefit from tax incentives targeted at improving the economy in distressed areas;
- Relatedly, whether to revise the method for calculating the net benefit to the State for companies moving to distressed areas;
- Whether capping the tax incentives by setting annual cost limits would improve the Programs, and what other options for increasing fiscal protections might be undertaken;
- Whether New Jersey should regularly conduct independent evaluations of the effectiveness of the tax incentives programs and to establish systems mandating greater oversight and annual evaluations of the Programs; and
- Whether the State should limit or prohibit the transfer of tax credits awarded under the Programs.

The Task Force will also seek the input of additional policy experts to the extent they have views on these issues.

EXHIBIT B



F: 856.382.6970

Via Email and Regular Mail

Bruce Ciallella New Jersey Economic Development Authority Senior Vice President 36 West State Street Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Mr. Ciallella:

On behalf of Cooper University Health Care ("Cooper"), I write in response to your letter dated June 26, 2019. In that letter the New Jersey Economic Development Authority ("EDA") asks that Cooper respond to certain allegations made by the Task Force on EDA's Tax Incentives ("Task Force") in its June 17, 2019 First Published Report ("Report"). Cooper thanks the EDA for the opportunity to submit this written response.

As you know, Cooper has been serving the Camden community for more than 132 years and operates a 635-bed safety net hospital. Over the course of its many years of service to Southern New Jersey, Cooper has grown and is now a leading academic health system with more than 7,300 employees, and its physicians train the medical professionals of tomorrow at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. Last year, more than 1.6 million patients visited Cooper's 100-plus locations across South Jersey. Cooper is proud to have been a leader in Camden's revitalization. The tax credit award from the EDA enabled Cooper to further support Camden's renewal by moving more of its employees into the city.

As detailed in the following pages, Cooper respectfully submits that the Report contains fundamental misstatements of the law, and a misleading and biased accounting of the facts, that resulted in improper and unwarranted aspersions cast upon both Cooper and the EDA.

First, under the grant program Cooper did not need to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state, neither as an issue of eligibility nor to justify the amount of credits Cooper received. The plain language of the statute and each aspect of the legislative history supports this conclusion. The contrary assertions from the Task Force are the result of (i) ignoring relevant statutory text, (ii) omitting key legislative history, (iii) misstating the effective date of various laws and regulations, and (iv) overlooking binding Appellate Division precedent. Indeed, one of the key conclusions from the Report is an improper attempt to apply to Cooper's <u>2014</u> application regulatory standards that were not adopted until <u>2017</u>.





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Second, because the law did not require Cooper to represent that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state in order to qualify for tax credits, Cooper's application did not certify that jobs were "at risk." Indeed, Cooper's application specifically informed the EDA—under oath—that Cooper did not intend to leave New Jersey. As reflected in contemporaneous documents, the EDA nevertheless requested a "comp from out of state" to support the application. Cooper complied with the request, explaining in writing to the EDA that Cooper had never even visited a location in Philadelphia, and had nothing in writing from a prospective Philadelphia landlord. Moreover, Cooper never amended its certification, which document explained under oath that Cooper was not considering a move outside of New Jersey. It is meritless for the Report nevertheless to conclude that Cooper actively deceived the EDA into thinking that Cooper—which has been a New Jersey health system for more than 130 years—was going to leave the state.

For all the many reasons that follow, the award of tax credits to Cooper was proper. The contrary conclusions advanced by the Task Force are baseless.

The Report Misstates the Law

The Report includes a six-page discussion of the New Jersey Economic Opportunity Act of 2013, <u>L.</u> 2013, <u>c.</u> 161 ("2013 Act"), offering an interpretation of that law's requirements for projects in Camden. Report at 24-29. The ultimate conclusion offered by the Task Force is that all applicants seeking tax credits under the incentive program—including those seeking to develop a project in Camden—were required to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state in order to qualify for tax incentives. Report at 26. As explained <u>infra</u>, Cooper never certified to the EDA that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the State, but nevertheless received a tax credit from the EDA. The Task Force's legal analysis, therefore, seems designed to call into question the legal propriety of the EDA's award to Cooper. For all of the reasons that follow, the Report's conclusion on this point is plainly incorrect. Indeed, it appears that the Task Force went out of its way to ignore relevant statutory text and legislative history to reach this demonstrably incorrect legal conclusion.

For the ease of the EDA, Cooper provides a brief history of the applicable statutory and regulatory provisions. When that history is placed in actual chronological order—and when the materials omitted by the Task Force are considered—the errors of the Report become apparent.

The Grow New Jersey Assistance Act, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 34:1B-242 *et seq.* ("Grow Program"), was first enacted into law on January 5, 2012. <u>See L.</u> 2011, <u>c.</u> 149. The central focus of the Grow Program in 2011 was the same as it is modernly: "to encourage economic development and job creation and to preserve jobs that currently exist in New Jersey but which are in danger of being relocated outside of the State." <u>L.</u> 2011, <u>c.</u> 149, § 3 (<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 34:1B-244). However, the concept of "Garden State Growth Zones" was not included in the Grow Program at the time.





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Under the Grow Program as originally enacted, the applicant needed to demonstrate that "the capital investment resultant from the award of tax credits and the resultant retention and creation of eligible positions will yield a net positive benefit to the State," and that "the award of tax credits will be a material factor in the business's decision to create or retain the minimum number of full-time jobs for eligibility under the program." <u>Ibid.</u> "To assist the authority in determining whether a proposed capital investment will yield a net positive benefit," the applicant's chief executive officer ("CEO") was required to submit a certification stating three things:

- 1. "that any existing full-time jobs are at risk of leaving the State or being eliminated,"
- 2. "that any projected creation or retention, as applicable, of new full-time jobs would not occur but for the provision of the tax credits under the program," and
- 3. that the applicant's chief executive officer has reviewed the application and that the representations are accurate.

<u>Ibid.</u> (emphasis added). The law at the time continued: "Based on this information, and any other information deemed relevant by the authority, the authority shall independently <u>verify and confirm</u>, by way of making a factual finding by separate vote of the authority's board, the business's assertion that the jobs are <u>actually at risk of leaving the State</u>, before a business may be awarded any tax credits under this section." <u>Ibid.</u> (emphasis added).

Because "Growth Zones" did not then exist, there was no deviation from this language to accommodate for projects in such zones. Jobs actually being "at risk" was an essential requirement of the application and the certification from the CEO.

Approximately six months after the EDA adopted the first set of regulations under the Grow Program, see 44 N.J.R. 1784(c), the Legislature began developing legislation that would eventually become the 2013 Act. As introduced, the draft legislation did not include the concept of "Garden State Growth Zones." See Assembly Bill No. 3680 (introduced Jan. 14, 2013). Instead, the idea of a Growth Zone was first introduced into the legislation with June 24, 2013 amendments from the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. As explained by the committee statement at that time, "The GSGZ [Garden State Growth Zone] program is a new area designation for the cities of Camden, Passaic, Paterson, and Trenton. The bill provides incentives to increase ERG and GROW award amounts for projects within GSGZs." Sen. Budget and App. Committee Statement to A. 3680 (First Reprint) (June 25, 2013) at 8. The 2013 Act was signed into law on September 18, 2013.

As amended by the 2013 Act, the Grow Program still stated the baseline requirement that applicants submit a certification with three items: (1) that jobs are "at risk," (2) that the project would not proceed "but for" the tax credits, and (3) that the chief executive officer believes the application to be truthful. For Growth Zones, however, the law now said that "in *satisfaction* of the [first two]





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<u>provisions</u>," the applicant "shall indicate that the provision of tax credits under the program is a <u>material factor</u> in the business decision to make a capital investment and locate in a Garden State Growth Zone." <u>Ibid.</u> (emphasis added).

The "satisfaction" language chosen by the Legislature is to be given its "generally accepted meaning." See N.J.S.A. 1:1-1 (general rules of construction). To "[s]atisfy" means "to discharge fully (a debt, obligation, etc.)"). Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary 1705 (1998); accord Black's Law Dictionary 1609-10 (11th ed. 2019) ("satisfaction" means "[t]he fulfillment of an obligation; esp., the payment in full of a debt"). Under the plain language of the amendments in the 2013 Act, applicants proposing Camden projects did not need to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state—they instead "satisf[ied]" this requirement if the provision of tax credits was a "material factor" in their decision to move forward with the project in Camden.

This construction is confirmed by additional language that the Legislature added to the same exact section when it added the "satisfaction" amendment. The law says that the EDA is required to "independently verify and confirm . . . the business's assertion that the jobs are at risk of leaving the State . . . or, with respect to projects located in the Garden State Growth Zone . . . the business's assertion that the provision of tax credits under the program is a material factor in the business's decision to make a capital investment and locate in the Garden State Growth Zone." N.J.S.A. 34:1B-244(d) (emphasis added). The latter part of this sentence was added by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee as part of its amendments to create Growth Zones. The disjunctive language thus sets up a clear distinction between non-Growth Zone and Growth Zone applicants. For the former, the EDA must verify that "jobs are at risk of leaving the State." Ibid. For the latter, no such verification is required because such applicants do not need to demonstrate that jobs are "at risk" as part of the net positive benefit test. Instead, they need only demonstrate that the credits are a "material factor" in their decision to invest in the Growth Zone. Ibid.

This interpretation is further supported by the legislative history. When the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee added the "satisfaction" language for Growth Zones, it explained that it meant to "add full-time jobs that were to be eliminated to the net positive benefit determination [for non-Growth-Zone applicants] but exempt the determination for certain projects in a GSGZ in certain municipalities." Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Statement to First Reprint of A. 3680 (June 25, 2013) at 4 (emphasis added). Thus, if the applicant was considering moving to Camden, it was "exempt" from demonstrating as part of the net positive benefits test that jobs were "at risk." Instead, it had to demonstrate only that the tax incentive was a "material factor" to its decision to construct a project in Camden. Accord Governor's Conditional Veto to First Reprint of A. 3680 (Sept. 9, 2013) (explaining that the bill "lower[s] program eligibility thresholds for New Jersey's municipalities in the most need of economic development" (emphasis added)).





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The Task Force omits all of the foregoing legal authority when it puts forth its strained interpretation of the 2013 Act. Specifically, the Task Force undertakes no effort to explain how the "satisfaction" language fits into its analysis, see Report at 25; silently relegates to a footnote the crucial alternative findings that the EDA must make for Camden projects, which expressly omits a finding of "at risk" for such projects, see Report at 27 n.70; completely ignores the legislative committee statement that Camden applicants were "exempt" from the traditional strictures in the "net positive benefit determination"; and disregards the Governor's statement that the intent was "to lower program eligibility thresholds" for Camden. Instead, the Report says there are two reasons why Camden applicants nevertheless needed to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk." Both rationales are incorrect.

First, the Task Force says that because the polestar of statutory interpretation is "the furtherance of legislative intent," and because the Grow Program was originally designed to "preserve" jobs that might otherwise leave the State, Camden applicants must therefore satisfy the "at risk" standard. Report at 26 (quoting N.J.S.A. 34:1B-244(a)). But the statutory language quoted by the Task Force was added in 2011, *prior* to the amendments in the 2013 Act. Compare Report at 26; with L. 2011, c. 149, § 3. The legislative history from 2013—*not* 2011—governs what the Legislature intended with its 2013 amendments. And as already noted, the 2013 amendments were explicitly designed to "exempt" Camden applicants from the "at risk" obligation.

Second, the Task Force says that the law must be construed to require a finding of "at risk," because a contrary interpretation would favor Camden above other municipalities and therefore render the 2013 Act constitutionally suspect "special legislation." Report at 27-28. This argument fails because it is inconsistent with established legal precedent, and was rejected outright by the New Jersey Appellate Division. The Municipal Rehabilitation and Economic Recovery Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27BBB-1 to -65 ("MRERA"), was specifically designed to include only one municipality: Camden. It is by cross-reference to MRERA that the 2013 Act sets forth distinct standards for Camden applicants under the Grow Program. See, e.g., N.J.S.A. 34:1B-244(d). The New Jersey Appellate Division has already held that MRERA is not "special legislation," even though it covers Camden alone. See Camden City Bd. of Educ. v. McGreevey, 369 N.J. Super. 592, 607 (App. Div. 2004); id. at 606 ("As long as the enactment on its face' allows other municipalities to qualify, it is irrelevant whether the Legislature was concerned with the needs of only one municipality when it acted."); accord Twp. of Mahwah v. Bergen County Bd. of Taxation, 98 N.J. 268, 285 (1985) ("a statute is not special legislation merely because it addresses the needs of a particular municipality or serves a particular purpose"). The Reports' rationale in favor of its interpretation is thus incorrect.

The Report also attempts to bolster its flawed interpretation of the statutory language with certain internal deliberations had in June 2013 between Colin Newman (then an attorney for Governor Christie) and two employees of the EDA, before the language was ever submitted to the Legislature for its consideration. Report at 24-25. Even assuming that this information is appropriately considered when





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interpreting an unambiguous statute (and it is not), the documents actually disprove the Task Force's faulty arguments.

According to those emails, there was an ongoing dialogue between the "Senate Dems" on the one hand, and Mr. Newman and EDA employees on the other, shortly before the concept of "Growth Zones" was first introduced by the Legislature. On June 21, 2013, the "Senate Dems" proposed statutory language saying that the "at risk" showing "shall not be required" for projects in Camden. Report Ex. 4. On June 23 and 24, Mr. Newman explained to employees of the EDA his preference that the "at risk" language remain an express requirement for Camden applicants, and specifically proposed language to accomplish that purpose. Report Ex. 5. Later that same day, legislative members <u>deleted</u> the language that Mr. Newman had requested, and added instead the "satisfaction" term that ultimately wound up in the final statute. Report Ex. 6. The Legislature further proposed that applicants in Camden should be required to demonstrate only that the tax credits "will allow the business to make a capital investment in the Garden State Growth Zone and assist the business's stability, competitiveness, economic efficiency and financial prospects." Ibid. In response, the EDA employees and Mr. Newman accepted the "satisfaction" language, but proposed that Camden applicants at least be required to show that the award of tax credits be a "material factor in the business decision" to move forward with the Camden project. Report Ex. 7, 8. This was the language that ultimately became law. See L. 2013, c. Simply put, while Mr. Newman expressed a desire for the "at risk" requirement to apply to Camden applicants, the Legislature <u>rejected</u> that request in favor of the "satisfaction" provision. Accordingly, these emails speak plainly and loudly to the Legislature's intent to exempt Growth Zone cities like Camden from the "at risk" requirement. The contrary interpretation offered by the Report is incorrect.

The Task Force also cites to N.J.A.C. 19:31-18.7(c) in support of its argument that the "at risk" requirement applied to Cooper's application. That provision states that "[r]etained employees" in Camden "shall not be included" in the net benefits test "unless the business demonstrates that the award of tax credits will be a material factor to retain the employees in the State." Report at 29 n.74 (emphasis in original); accord Report at 43 (same). Regardless of whether this regulation is permissible in light of the statutory language discussed above, this provision was not in the Administrative Code

¹ It is improper to "resort to extrinsic interpretive aids when the statutory language is clear and unambiguous, and susceptible to only one interpretation." <u>DiProspero v. Penn</u>, 183 <u>N.J.</u> 477, 492 (2005) (quotation omitted). And even when legislative history is appropriately considered, "statements of individual legislators are not generally considered to be a reliable guide to legislative intent," because it is the intent of the Legislature as a whole—not individual politicians—that must be respected. <u>See Bedford v. Riello</u>, 392 <u>N.J. Super.</u> 270, 279 (App. Div. 2007) (quotation omitted), <u>aff'd 195 N.J.</u> 210 (2008). The statements used by the Task Force are even less reliable indicators of legislative intent, because none of the speakers were even members of the Legislature.





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when Cooper applied for and received its tax incentives. Instead, this language was added on January 3, 2017, in a notice of adoption filed without public comment. See 49 N.J.R. 134(a). Prior to that date, the Administrative Code did not say that that jobs needed to be "at risk" for them to be considered as part of the "net positive benefits test" for Camden applicants. Instead, the regulations said that "taxes paid directly or generated indirectly by new or retained employees" were included in the analysis. See 44 N.J.R. 1784(c), at 1791. It is thus wrong for the Task Force to suggest that Cooper's application violated a regulatory provision that was not even in effect until years after Cooper's application was approved, and is likely invalid nonetheless.²

The Report claims that it is nevertheless "indisputable" that "at risk" is a "critical factor bearing on, at a minimum, the potential size of the award." Report at 42. In other words, even if the law says otherwise and even if the Legislature intended to exempt Camden applicants from the "at risk" requirement for eligibility purposes, the Task Force incorrectly argues that the grant award would be substantially reduced or eliminated unless jobs were actually "at risk."

The Report's conclusion is incorrect. The Legislature clearly intended to exempt Camden applicants from the "at risk" requirement not just for eligibility purposes (see supra), but also for purposes of calculating the amount of the award. The 2013 Act specifically instructed that "in determining whether a proposed capital investment will yield a net positive benefit," Camden applicants "satisf[ied]" the requirement of jobs being "at risk" if they instead certified that "the provision of tax credits under the program is a material factor in the business decision to make a capital investment and locate in" Camden. N.J.S.A. 34:1B-244(d). Likewise, the contemporaneous legislative committee statement—conspicuously ignored by the Task Force—explains that the intent was to "exempt the determination" of jobs being "at risk" for purposes of the "net positive benefit determination." Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Statement to First Reprint of A. 3680 (June 25, 2013) at 4 (emphasis added).

According to the Task Force's interpretation, because the retained taxes of a New Jersey employee who is not "at risk" do not produce a new "net positive benefit to the State," those taxes *ispo facto* cannot be included in the test. Report at 42. But the Report itself concedes that this is not what the Legislature intended in the 2013 Act when it created new standards for Camden. Indeed, the Report criticizes the Legislature at length for allowing "phantom taxes" under the net positive benefits test for Camden applicants "even if the State will never collect those taxes." Report at 22-23, 71. Just as the Legislature allowed certain taxes to be included in the net positive benefit test for Camden regardless of

² Making substantial changes to the Administrative Code without public comment violates the Administrative Procedure Act, rendering the regulatory amendment void. See N.J.S.A. 52:14B-4(d) ("No rule hereinafter adopted is valid unless adopted in substantial compliance with" the act). Moreover, a regulation is substantively invalid if it is inconsistent with a statute, as this regulation clearly is.





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the actual "collect[ion]" of those taxes, so too did it decide that employees need not be "at risk" for their numbers to count toward Camden applications.

As the Legislature obviously recognized, the entire purpose of the 2013 Act was "to *increase* ERG and GROW award amounts for projects" in Camden, while simultaneously "*lowering* eligibility thresholds" for such projects. Sen. Budget and App. Committee Statement to A. 3680 (First Reprint) (June 25, 2013) at 8; Governor's Conditional Veto to First Reprint of A. 3680 (Sept. 9, 2013). Statutes must be interpreted to advance, not thwart, legislative intent. Lee v. First Union Nat'l Bank, 199 N.J. 251, 262 (2009). Because the incorrect interpretation offered by the Report would destroy the intent of the Legislature in the 2013 Act, it must be rejected.

As a matter of law, Cooper was not required—neither as part of the initial eligibility determination, nor as part of the determination on the amount of the credit Cooper would receive—to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk" of leaving the State. That is precisely why Cooper explained in its application that no jobs were "at risk." See infra.

The Report Misstates the Facts

Cooper's November 7, 2014 application did not represent that any jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state, and Cooper's then-CEO never certified that any jobs were "at risk." See Report at 50, 52 n.131. Rather, Cooper's application informed the EDA that it wanted to relocate certain of its back-office operations from the suburbs into a new facility in Camden, lawfully availing itself of the Grow Program to do so. See Report at 49. As explained in more detail below, it was not until after a request from the EDA for a comparable alternative location outside of New Jersey that Cooper presented such information. At no time, however, did Cooper revise its application or amend its certification to state that jobs were actually "at risk." The contrary assertions contained in the Report are without merit.

First, the Task Force points to internal Cooper communications on March 28, 2014 that described the benefits of a move to the L-3 Building in Camden, "months before [Cooper's] November 2014 application for tax incentives." Report at 49. The suggestion is that Cooper had already made up its mind to move to the L-3 Building regardless of whether it received tax credits. The claim is false. An email circulated on March 29, 2014 among the very same people "[a]s a follow up to our discussion yesterday" attached "information about the property for your reference." Exhibit A. The attachment to that email explained, "Tenants that relocate to this building are eligible for unprecedented economic incentives provided by the state of New Jersey under the New Jersey Economic Opportunity Act of 2013." Ibid. In other words, Cooper's move to the L-3 building was an attractive option precisely because of the availability of new credits under the 2013 Act.

Second, Exhibit 16 attached to the Report is represented by the Task Force to be the November 7, 2014 application that Cooper submitted to the EDA. <u>See</u> Report at 50; Report Ex. 16. That is





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incorrect. When a company submits an application to the EDA through the online portal, the application is automatically marked "OFFICIAL COPY" and given a time-stamp. For example, Cooper's application is time-stamped "11/7/2014 2:17:03 PM," and clearly marked "OFFICIAL COPY." See Exhibit B. The Task Force's Exhibit 16 is not the official submission from Cooper, but rather an earlier working draft that Cooper sent to the EDA on November 11, 2014 for the sole purpose of answering some of the EDA's follow-up questions on "retained jobs." Report Ex. 17. This working draft is *not* the official application submitted by Cooper to which its CEO certified. Nevertheless, the Task Force presented this working draft as Cooper's official application during the May 2, 2019 hearing, pointing out inconsistencies between that document and the "official copy" to accuse Cooper and its then-CEO of malfeasance. See Exhibit C (May 2, 2019 Transcript at 168:19 to 169:17).

Third, after Cooper submitted its official application on Friday November 7, the EDA reached out to Cooper's counsel on Monday November 10 with some follow-up questions. The EDA employee stated, "Cost Benefit analysis was not included in the package, we need to see something that indicates a *comparison of the current NJ locations* with a consolidation to the L3 space." Report Ex. 17 (emphasis added). Crucially, the EDA was not asking for an analysis comparing Camden with a non-New Jersey location—it was asking for a comparison of Camden with Cooper's existing facilities. Similarly, in the same email the EDA asked for "a more specific breakdown of the jobs to be retained," without ever suggesting that jobs needed to be "at risk" to be included in the calculation. <u>Ibid.</u> As the Task Force would know from its witness interviews, Cooper and the EDA had been in regular communication prior to the actual submission. This contemporaneous email (conspicuously ignored by the Task Force) indicates that, up to that point, the EDA was not seeking out-of-state information from Cooper. Rather, the EDA was only interested in Cooper's intentions to make an intrastate move to a Garden State Growth Zone pursuant to the new 2013 Act.

Fourth, after observing that everything Cooper submitted to the EDA up through November 13, 2014 said that no jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state, and that Cooper was not considering any nonnew Jersey locations, the Report observes that on November 13, 2014 at 11:59 am an EDA employee emailed Cooper's attorney, saying, "I need to talk to you about Cooper." Report Ex. 18. After that outreach—clearly initiated by the EDA—Cooper's attorney informed the EDA that very evening that Cooper was "working on" a new cost benefit analysis, and that the attorney "[w]ill get to you ASAP." Report Ex. 19.

The following day, Friday November 14, Andrew Bush (Cooper's Vice President of Real Estate and Facilities) updated his supervisor, Douglas Shirley (Cooper's Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer) on the EDA application. Mr. Bush explained, "*EDA has asked for a comp from out of state to support our application.*" Exhibit D (emphasis added). After Mr. Bush found a suitable "comp" to satisfy the EDA's request, on Tuesday November 18 Cooper submitted an updated cost benefit analysis for 1900 Market Street in Philadelphia. Report Ex. 20. Cooper then explained to the EDA that (i) Cooper had never even *seen* any locations in Philadelphia and that (ii) Cooper had





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absolutely <u>nothing</u> in writing from any prospective Philadelphia landlord because all communications were verbal only. Report Ex. 21-22. It was not until December 5, 2019—presumably <u>after</u> the EDA's Incentive Committee recommended that Cooper's application be approved at the upcoming December 9 board meeting, <u>see</u> Report at 34 (describing approval process)—that Cooper ever obtained and submitted to the EDA any written terms for a Philadelphia property. Report Ex. 23. And that written document was for a completely different property than was listed in the earlier Cost Benefit Analysis, with completely different prices, which prompted Cooper to ask the EDA "if you would like [Cooper] to update the cost benefit analysis." <u>Ibid.</u>

Notwithstanding all of that history, the Report accuses Cooper of having deceived the EDA into believing that Cooper was "sincerely" contemplating a move to Philadelphia. Report at 52. That allegation is inconsistent with the facts and the undisputed chronology of communications described above. Indeed, it is self-evident that after Cooper filed its application stating that no jobs were "at risk," the EDA asked it to provide legally irrelevant information. The Task Force is now using Cooper's compliance with the EDA's request to tarnish the organization.

Cooper does not have the benefit of the information available to the Task Force, and thus is left to a certain degree of supposition at this stage. The 2013 Act was a dense document, and the Report reveals that EDA staff received no formal legal training on what it meant or how to process applications in Growth Zones in light of the legislative amendments. Report at 40. Even though the plain language of the statute made it clear that Camden applicants did not need to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk," EDA staff nevertheless "exhibited inconsistent, incomplete, or inaccurate understandings of certain Program requirements," specifically concerning "the circumstances in which Grow NJ applicants are required to demonstrate a risk that their jobs may be relocated outside of New Jersey" and "the effect such a relocation risk may have on the terms of any tax incentives award." Report at 42. There is no indication in the limited record to date that the EDA appropriately updated the Regional Input-Output Modeling System designed by Jones Lang LaSalle to accommodate for the new changes in the net benefit test mandated for Growth Zones. See Exhibit C (252:14 to 253:6) (explaining the computer software used to calculate the net benefit). And indeed, the Task Force admits that the EDA awarded tax credits to an entity in Atlantic City that, like Cooper, never certified that any jobs were "at risk." The EDA clearly treated that Growth Zone applicant—which also did not need to demonstrate that jobs were "at risk," see N.J.S.A. 34:1B-244(d)—differently than the EDA treated Cooper.

Regardless of whether it was because of the lack of legal training on the 2013 Act, or any other number of factors resulting in confusion in the EDA itself, the EDA asked Cooper for a comparable out-of-state location even though Cooper told the EDA upfront that no jobs were "at risk." The understanding of Cooper was that it was providing *comparable locations* to satisfy the EDA's requests, even though Cooper never intended to relocate outside of New Jersey. Indeed, that is exactly how Cooper described its understanding of the EDA's request, explaining on November 14, 2014 that "EDA"





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has asked for a <u>comp</u> from out of state to support our application." Exhibit C (emphasis added). And when Cooper reached out to CBRE on November 25, 2014 to seek potential alternate locations for the EDA application, it described the request as seeking a "<u>comp</u>" only. Report Ex. 26 (emphasis added).

Rather than recognizing that Cooper only sought a "comp" when it reached out to CBRE, the Report alleges that this email is proof of Cooper seeking a "sham term sheet" because Cooper requested discretion about the inquiry. Report at 54. Since Cooper had no intention of moving to Philadelphia and was only seeking a "comp" to satisfy the EDA's request, it was a reasonable ask on Cooper's part to avoid creating a public misunderstanding that the <u>New Jersey</u> hospital (which had been serving this state since the 1800s) was moving to <u>Pennsylvania</u>. See Report Ex. 26.

Similarly, the Report claims that Cooper "informed the EDA during the course of EDA's processing of its application" that Cooper "was considering an out-of-state move to Philadelphia." Report at 48. Cooper is aware of no such representation to the EDA. To the contrary, the only documents known to Cooper are those where its then-CEO certified that jobs were <u>not</u> at risk of leaving the state. It bears repeating that Cooper (i) explained to the EDA up front and <u>under oath</u> that it had no intention of leaving New Jersey, (ii) told the EDA that it had not even <u>seen</u> any locations in Philadelphia, (iii) advised the EDA that the only information it had on Philadelphia locations was <u>oral</u>, and (iv) submitted a cost benefit analysis that was <u>completely different</u> than the one location where Cooper ultimately obtained a written lease proposal for the EDA. These facts clearly disprove that Cooper was affirmatively trying to mislead the EDA. Indeed, if this is a "fraud," it is perhaps the most incompetent fraud ever committed.

Finally, the Report indicates that the EDA was asked to "recalculate the award" to Cooper on the assumption that zero jobs were "at risk." The Report goes on to say that "at most" Cooper would be eligible for \$7.15 million under whatever standard was applied for this recalculation. Report at 55. While Cooper has been provided with no information about the metrics used for this calculation, any standard that refuses to consider Camden employees in the net benefit test unless those employees are "at risk" is inconsistent with the 2013 Act for the many reasons explained above. Moreover, if the standard used for this "recalculation" followed the modern provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:31-18.7(c) (i.e., the regulation adopted in 2017), those provisions were not in effect at the time that Cooper was awarded its grant in 2014. Instead, if the "recalculation" was performed consistent with the 2013 Act and the law as of 2014, the result would necessarily match the amount of Cooper's award. Indeed, Cooper has far exceeded its contractual obligations for the Camden facility, employing over 500 employees even though the application required only 372.

Conclusion

To date, Cooper has invested \$15 million into its Camden facility, and the number of jobs at its facility has grown to nearly 500 employees, which is far in excess of the 372 jobs required in its





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application. Cooper has surpassed all commitments and requirements of the Grow Program and its incentive agreement, complied with the law in all respects, and has received a Letter of Compliance from the EDA each year since 2015. Unfortunately, Cooper has nevertheless sustained ongoing, baseless, and damaging public attacks on its reputation. The Task Force has implied falsely that Cooper acted improperly, based on a faulty interpretation of New Jersey law and without evidence to support those accusations.

The evidence and record are clear. Under the plain language of the 2013 Act, Cooper did not have to certify that any jobs were "at risk" of leaving the state, neither for eligibility for tax credits nor as part of the net benefit test. Cooper filed one certified application and CEO certification, and neither document stated that jobs would move out of state. In fact, the application expressly stated "NO" when asked if jobs were at risk of going out of state. And it is clear from the record, and even in the Task Force's Report, that Cooper only began to research comparable data on out-of-state properties after being contacted by the EDA and requested to do so. The Report's allegations against Cooper are undermined every step of the way as being without basis in law or fact.

Cooper thanks the EDA for this opportunity to correct the record. We also thank you for your invitation to meet and discuss any remaining questions you have and ask that the meeting be set up as soon as possible.

Very Truly Yours,

Sean Patrick Murphy, Esq.

Senior Vice President/General Counsel

The Cooper Health System

EXHIBIT A

From:

David Foster <

Sent:

Saturday, March 29, 2014 3:10 PM

To:

John Sheridan

Cc: Subject:

Anthony Perno L-3 Information

Attachments:

Camden Innovation Campus-4pg brochure.pdf; Second Floor - Option Two[4].pdf; CFP

Memo Re Cooper Lease of L3.docx; Conference Center 1[1].jpg; Cafeteria 2.jpg

Dear John,

I hope all is well. As a follow up to our discussion yesterday, I am attaching an overview memo for a potential Cooper lease of space in the 100 Market Street building. You will see that it is a very attractive deal, with a ten year net occupancy cost of \$13M. Even if you relocate another 20,000 sf of non-Grow tenants into the building, you'll still see a net occupancy cost of better than -\$5M. I have also attached information about the property for your reference. One thing that often gets lost in the discussion of the building is how nice a space it is and can be. The fitness center, 200+ person conference center, training rooms, cafeteria, and waterfront access are a real plus. Additionally, the wide-open floor plan lets you build a modern office space with lots of natural light and modern amenities that your employees will love. We have included \$25 of TI, which should get you what you need. The space can also come furnished at no additional cost, which may allow you to save a few bucks as well.

I think this deal makes a lot of sense for Cooper. Although it does not get you a new building, it will have a big and immediate economic development impact on the downtown and will certainly cement Cooper's legacy as the history of this revitalization is being written. Once you factor in the savings of not renting your current space in the suburbs, this move could allow you to easily realize \$3M+ in annual savings

I have not included information on the office building for the other project on the adjacent parcel. The model for that project is highly dependent on parking numbers for the Aquarium and other special events. Our team is pulling those together, and I will have a detailed model for you on Monday.

Let us know what you think. It might make sense to schedule a time to walk the building again as you consider your options.

All the best Dave

David D. Foster President

Cooper's Ferry Partnership

e: p:

m·

www.coopersferry.com

Camden Innovation Campus 100 Market Street Camden, New Jersey





LEASING OPPORTUNITY:

116,000 s.f.

Class A office space available for lease

Rick Widerman

Executive Vice President

Dan Close

Senior Associate

1820 Chapel Avenue W. Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 +1 856 324 5300 www.us.jll.com/philadelphia





Building Features

The building size is 350,000 s.f. and is Class A office space with 116,000 rsf available. The 116,000 s.f. is the entire second floor and is divisible.

- 10 foot ceilings throughout
 (ability to expand ceiling heights)
- . Parking ratio of 4 0/1 00
- . 24 hour access and building security
- Secure campus
- . High capacity, dual-line power feed
- Fiber ontic internat
- Easy access to and from public
 transportation
- Located within a Garden State Growth Zone
 (GSGZ)

Onsite Amenities

- Training Center
- Fitness Center
- Free secured narking
- Full service cafeteria



Incentives

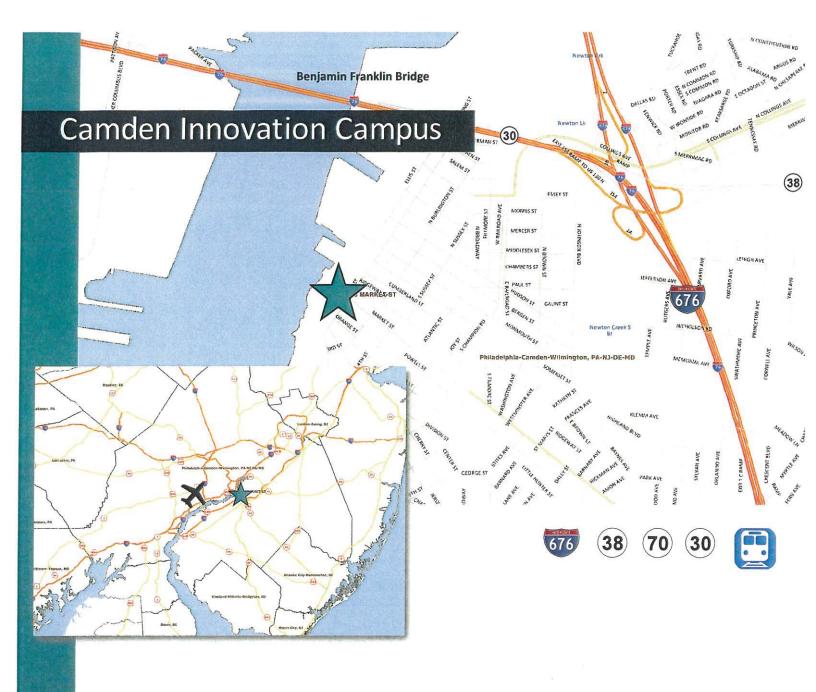
Tenants that relocate to this building are eligible for unprecedented economic incentives provided by the state of New Jersey under the New Jersey Economic Opportunity Act of 2013.

It is likely that eligible tenants can obtain incentives that exceed a tenant's aggregate annual rent over the first 10 years of a lease term.

Access to Mass Transportation

- PATCO City Hall transit stop is two blocks with service from Philadelphia to Lindenwold, NJ. (7 minutes to Philadelphia)
- NJ Transit River Line is immediately adjacent to the building.
- NJ Transit has a hub for 26 bus lines at the Walter Rand Transportation Center.







100 Market Street
Camden, New Jersey

Rick Widerman

Executive Vice President

Dan Close

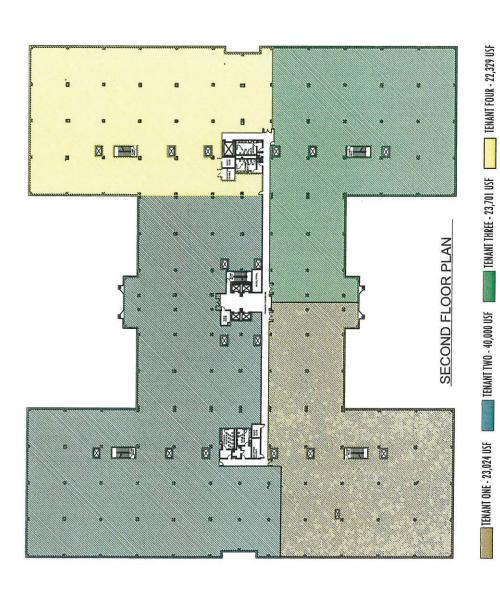
Senior Associate

1820 Chapel Avenue W. Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 +1 856 324 5300 www.us.jll.com/philadelphia

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ONE FEDERAL STREET SECOND FLOOR BLOCKING PLAN - OPTION TWO



EXHIBIT B



Online Application for Financial Assistance

OFFICIAL COPY

APPLICATION NUMBER: 207419

Application Date:

11/7/2014

Who is your NJEDA contact?

Justin Kenyon

Products Selected:

Grow New Jersey Program

Application Fee:

\$5,000

Payment Method:

BYCHECK

Applicant Organization Information

Applicant Organization Name:

(legal name without abbreviations)

Federal Employer's I.D. No. (FEIN):

The Cooper Health System

Doing Business As Name:

Holding Company Name:

Authorized Representative:

Authorized Representative Title:

Is the Organization's address the same as

the Contact's address?

County:

Telephone Number:

Website Address:

Number of Employees:

NAICS Number:

Nature of Business: Medical Services Cooper University Health Care

n/a

SEVP & CFO

YES

Camden

www.cooperhealth.org

5,998

6221

Please provide a brief history and description of the applicant's business (including principal products and services):

The Cooper Health System is a leading provider of health services to Southern New Jersey and had been a vital institution in Camden for 137 years. Cooper provides a comprehensive network of services that include prevention and wellness, primary and specialty physician services, hospital care, ambulatory and diagnostic treatment services – currently serving more than half a million patients a year

Year Established:

1877

Ownership Structure:

Nonprofit Organization

State of Incorporation/Formation:

N3

List all Trustees or Officers:

Name	SSN	Position	US Citizen	Permanent Resident
Adrienne Kirby, PhD, FACHE		Officer	YES	
Douglas Shirley		Officer	YES	3
Gary Lesneski		Officer	YES	
Anthony Mazzarelli, MD, JD, MBE		Officer	YES	

Principal Bank Reference Information

Bank Name	Contact Name	Contact Telephone Number
TD Bank		

Legal Information

Name of counsel to applicant:

Gary J Lesneski, Esquire

Address:

3 Cooper Plaza Suite 316 Camden, NJ 08103

Telephone:

Accountant Information

Accountant name:

William G. Smith

Address:

3 Executive Campus Suite 310 Cherry Hill, NJ

08002

Telephone:

Has the applicant, or any related parties, previously received EDA assistance? YES

Applicant Contact Information

Salutation:

Mr.

First Name: Middle Initial: Last Name: Suffix: Title: Vice President Company: Cooper University Hospital Mailing Address: One Cooper Plaza Address Line 2: City/Town: Camden State: NJ ZIP Code: 08103 Telephone Number: Fax Number: **Emall Address: Consultant Contact Information** Contact Name: na Contact Title: na Company: na Address: na Address Line 2: City: na State: N ZIP Code: na Phone: na Email: na **Project Information Project Location** Street Address: 1 Federal Street Address Line 2: City/Town: Camden City State: NJ ZIP Code: 08103

Camden County: Block Lot 1,73,76,142-144 340076103.00 Census Tract: Is the project located on property that was wholly or substantially damaged or destroyed NO as a result of a Federally-declared disaster? **Project Description** Please provide a narrative description as fully and precisely as possible of the project, including acquisition, lease and renewal terms, construction or expansion plans, current and future uses by the applicant, size of existing and proposed facility, and/or project occupant(s) of the building(s) and/or equipment to be acquired or upgraded: Cooper plans to lease 123,578 square feet of office space, renovate the space, add furniture and add IT infrastructure to support Cooper's operations in this facility. Cooper will utilize the space for administrative services which support its delivery of integrated health care services. Will the project facility be occupied or used YES by any party other than the applicant? Is it anticipated that the project location will **LEASE** be purchased or leased? **Landlord Contact Information** Howard Needleman Contact Name: Partner Contact Title: L/N CAC, LLC (Needleman Management) Company: 1060 N Kings Highway, Suite 250 Address: Address Line 2: Cherry Hill City: NJ State: 08034 ZIP Code: Phone:

odnomig.		
Asset Type:	Gross Leasable Area (GLA))	Useable Square Feet (USF)

123,578

569,473

Useable Square Footage leased by the

Total Useable Square Footage of the

Email:

tenant:

building:

Office	123,578	123,578	
		<u> </u>	1

Describe how the green building standards posted on EDA's website, here www.njeda.com/GreenBidgGuidance2, will be incorporated into the proposed project. Also include how renewable energy, energy efficiency technology, and non-renewable resources will be incorporated into the project to reduce environmental degradation and to encourage long-term cost reduction.

The project will incorporate green building standards related to renovation of an existing non-industrial building

Will the project generate solar energy on the site?

Project Costs

Please enter applicable costs:

Existing Building Renovation or Addition	\$2,600,000
Fees - Engineering and Architectural	\$650,000
Fixtures & Equipment, Furniture	\$3,600,000
Technology & Networking	\$1,800,000
Relocation Costs	\$480,000
Total Cost:	\$9,130,000

Prevailing Wage

Be advised that projects utilizing financial assistance for construction related costs are subject to state prevailing wage requirements. For further information regarding prevailing wage requirements, please visit the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce webpage on prevailing wage requirements located at

http://iwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wagehour/wagerate/prevailing wage determinations.html. Please contact Justin if you have any questions.

Project Costs - Existing Building Renovation or Addition

Be aware that Renovation and Additions may trigger Prevailing Wage. Please contact Justin if you have any questions.

Provide a brief description of the size and nature of the renovations and/or addition: Construction costs will result from tenant fit-out to configure the space for Cooper's use and is expected to include demolition of the existing fit-out, modifications to HVAC system, construction of new walls, finishes, etc

Square feet of the building:

569473

Describe all approvals for this project	Status	Date
1. Site Plan Approval	Anticipated	2005/2009 Abril 19
2. Schematic Drawings	Anticipated	
3. Design Drawlngs	Anticipated	
4. Construction Drawings	Anticipated	
5. Construction Permits	Anticipated	
6. Historic Review	NA	
7. Traffic/Offsite Improvements	NA	

Project Costs - Existing Building Renovation or Addition

NO Has construction work begun on project?

Do you have an Architect under contract at NO the time of this application?

Do you have an Construction Manager under NO contract at the time of this application?

Do you have an General Contractor under contract at the time of this application?

NO

Sources of Funds

Sources should include categories such as owner's equity, bank financing, and other government support used to finance the completion of the project. The EDA grant request, if successful, should not be considered a project financing source since it will be available over time.

Source Name	Source Amount
owner's equity	\$9,130,000
Total:	\$9,130,000

Grant Amount Requested:

\$44,770,000

Describe how the request was calculated:

The Grant Amount was developed using the base credits and bonus credits available under the GrowNJ program for a project at this site. The Applicant anticipates 407 full time jobs and base/bonus credits of \$11,000 per job per year.

Desired Grant Term

10

Grow New Jersey Program

Location of Corporate headquarters

Address:

1 Cooper Plaza

Address Line 2:

City:

Camden

State:

NJ

ZIP Code:

08103

County:

Camden

Country:

US

State of Incorporation:

NJ

New Jersey Operations

Job Type	Number of Employees	Employment	Relocating to Proposed Site	Current Location of Positions	Employee Type	Number of Hours Per Week
Administrative and support services	383	Retained	YES	Cherry Hill & Mt Laurel	W-2	35
Administrative and support services	52	Retained	YES	Camden	W-2	35
	Total: 435					

Does the company provide employee health benefits under a group health plan as defined under section 14 of P.L. 1997, c. 146 (C.17B:27-54), a health benefits plan as defined under section I of P.L. 1992, c.162(C.17B:27A-17), or a policy or contract of health insurance covering more than one person issued pursuant to Article 2 of Title 17B of the New Jersey Statutes?

YES

Number of existing full-time jobs in NJ to be relocated to the proposed site:

407

Are any jobs listed in the application at risk

of being located outside of New Jersey:

NO

Date or dates that the jobs at risk would be expected to leave the State:

Number of new full-time jobs to be created

at the proposed site:

Number of Construction jobs working on this project: 7.

List other states New Jersey is in competition with:

Cooper intends to provide 435 total jobs including 407 Full Time jobs. Of these full time jobs,

355 are relocating from outside Camden and 52 are relocating from within the city limits to allow for clinical expansion on Cooper's main campus at One Cooper and Three Cooper Plaza.

What is the approximate start date for the

project?

1/1/2015

What is the approximate date of completion

for the project?

7/1/2015

Date that company commenced operations in

New Jersey:

January 1875

Are any of the employees or capital investment referenced in the application currently subject to a BEIP, BRRAG or HUB

agreement?

Total number of full time NJ employees:

4,658

NO

Estimated Total Gross Payroll at the project

\$27,264,000

Average Annual Salary for Eligible

Employees:

Tax Entity

site:

\$62,918

Median Annual Salary for Eligible Employees: \$49,305

I certify that my business is not in default

with any other program administered by the YES State of New Jersey:

List the exact names of all tax-paying entities below that will pay withholdings for eligible employees under the Grant together with their New Jersey tax identification number (all entities paying withholding taxes for eligible employees will be required to execute the grant agreement). Any companies that are not wholly owned subsidiaries of the Recipient will be

ID#

required to submit an application for inclusion in the Grant.

The Cooper Health System

Additional Background Information

Businesses applying for eligibility for NJEDA programs are subject to the Authority's Disqualification/Debarment Regulations (the "Regulations"), which are set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:30-2.1, et seq. Applicants are required to answer the following background questions pertaining to the commission of certain actions that can lead to debarment or disqualification from eligibility under the Regulations.

All capitalized terms used in this Questionnaire, except those defined elsewhere herein, shall be defined at the bottom of this form.

1. Commission of a criminal offense as an NO Incident to obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract, or subcontract

thereunder, or in the performance of such contract or subcontract.

- 2. Violation of the Federal Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, perjury, false swearing, receiving stolen property, obstruction of justice, or any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or honesty.
- 3. Violation of the Federal or State antitrust statutes, or of the Federal Anti-Kickback Act NO (18 U.S.C.874).
- 4. Violation of any law governing the conduct of elections of the Federal Government, State of New Jersey or of its political subdivision.
- 5. Violation of the "Law Against Discrimination" (P.L. 1945, c169, N.J.S.A 10:5-1 et seq., as supplemented by P.L. 1975, c127), or of the act banning discrimination in public works employment (N.J.S.A 10:2-1 et seq.) or of the act prohibiting discrimination by industries engaged in defense work in the employment of persons therein (P.L. 1942, c114, N.J.S.A 10:10, et seq.).
- 6. To the best of your knowledge after reasonable inquiry, violation of any laws governing hours of labor, minimum wage NO standards, prevailing wage standards, discrimination in wages, or child labor.
- 7. To the best of your knowledge, after reasonable inquiry, violation of any law governing the conduct of occupations or professions of regulated industries.
- 8. Debarment by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the State or Federal NO government.
- 9. Violation of any of the following prohibitions on vendor activities representing a conflict of interest, or failure to report a solicitation as set forth below:

NO

NO

I. No person shall pay, offer or agree to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity, or other thing of value of any kind to any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee, as defined by N.J.S.A 52:13D-13(b) and (e), with which such person transacts or offers or proposes to transact business, or to any member of the immediate family as defined by N.J.S.A 52:13D-13i, of any such officer or employee, or partnership, firm or corporation with which they are employed, or associated, or in which such officer or employee has an

interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A 52:13D-13g.

- ii. The solicitation of any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity or other thing of value by any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee from any person shall be reported in writing by the person to the Attorney General and the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards.
- iii. No person may, directly or indirectly, undertake any private business, commercial or entrepreneurial relationship with, whether or not pursuant to employment, contract or other agreement, express or implied, or sell any interest in such person to, any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee having any duties or responsibilities in connection with the purchase, acquisition or sale of any property or services by or to the Authority, or with any person, firm or entity with which he or she is employed or associated or in which he or she has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A 52:13D-13g. Any relationships subject to this subsection shall be reported in writing to the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards, which may grant a waiver of this restriction upon application of the Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee upon a finding that the present or proposed relationship does not present the potential, actuality or appearance of a conflict of interest.

Iv. No person shall influence, or attempt to influence or cause to be influenced, any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee in his or her capacity in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of the officer or employee.

v. No person shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee to use, or attempt to use, his or her official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for the person or any other person.

NO

10. Has any member of the Controlled Group been found guilty, liable or responsible for the violation in any Legal Proceedings of any State, Federal or foreign law that may bear upon a lack of responsibility or moral integrity, or that may provide other compelling reasons for disqualification. (Your responses to the foregoing question should include, but not be limited to, the violation of the following laws, without regard to whether any monetary award, damages, verdict, assessment or penalty has been made against any member of the Controlled Group, except that any violation of any environmental law in category (v) below need not be reported where the monetary award damages, etc. amounted to less than \$1 million).

- i. Laws banning or prohibiting discrimination or harassment in the workplace on the basis of gender, race, age, religion or handicapped status.
- II. Laws prohibiting or banning any form of forced, slave, or compulsory labor.
- iii. Laws protecting workers who have reported the wrongdoing of their employers to governmental authorities, commonly referred to as "Whistleblower Laws".
- iv. Securities or tax laws resulting in a finding of fraud or fraudulent conduct.
- v. Environmental laws.
- vi. Laws banning the possession or sale of, or trafficking in, firearms or drugs.
- vii. Laws banning anti-competitive dumping of goods.
- viii. Anti-terrorist laws.
- ix. Criminal laws involving commission of any felony or indictable offense under State, Federal or foreign law.
- x. Laws banning human rights abuses.
- xi. Laws banning the trade of goods or services to enemies of the United States.
- xii. The New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law, N.J.S.A 52:13D-1, et seq.

NO

11. To the best of your knowledge, after reasonable inquiry, is any member of the Controlled Group a party to pending Legal Proceedings wherein any of the offenses or violations described in questions 1-10 above are alleged or asserted against such entity or person?

If the answer to any of the foregoing questions is affirmative, you must provide the following information as an attachment to the application: (i) the case and court in which such matters were tried or are pending; (ii) the charges or claims adjudicated or alleged; and (iii) a brief explanation of the circumstances giving rise to such matters. Also, for affirmative answers to question 1-10, copies of the final judgments, consent orders or administrative findings, as the case may be, that were entered or made in such matters must be attached.

The terms set forth below shall be defined as follows:

"Affiliates" means persons having an overt or covert relationship such that any one of them directly or indirectly controls or has the power to control another.

"Legal Proceedings" means any State, Federal or foreign civil, criminal or administrative proceeding in a court or administrative tribunal in the United States, any territories thereof or foreign jurisdiction.

The Authority reserves the right to require additional clarifying or explanatory information from the applicant ("Applicant") regarding the answers given. If, at any time prior to board action on this application, or, at any time between the date of such action and the execution of a grant agreement with the Authority, the Applicant should become aware of any facts that materially alter or change such answers, or render any of them incomplete, the Applicant shall have a duty to immediately report such facts to the Authority in writing.

Certification of Application

PLEASE NOTE:

Eligibility of financial assistance by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority is determined by the information presented in this application and the required attachments and schedules. Any changes in the status of the proposed project from the facts presented herein could disqualify the project, including but not limited to, the commencement of construction or the acquisition of assets such as land or equipment. Please contact the staff of the EDA before taking any action which would change the status of the project as reported herein. The EDA's regulations and policies regarding the payment of prevailing wages and affirmative action in the hiring of construction workers require the submission of certain reports and certificates and the inclusion of certain provisions in construction contracts. Please consult with the EDA staff for details concerning these matters. (Forms can be found on our website www.njeda.com/forms)

Only Board Members of the governing board of the particular program for which you are applying, by resolution, may take action to determine project eligibility and to authorize the Issuance of funds.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING DULY SWORN UPON MY OATH SAY:

- 1. I have received a copy of the "Regulation on Payment of Prevailing Wages" and the "Affirmative Action Regulation" and am prepared to comply with the requirements contained therein.
- 2. I affirm, represent, and warrant that the applicant has no outstanding obligations to any bank, loan company, corporation, or individual not mentioned in the above application and attachments; that the information contained in this application and in all attachments submitted herewith is to the best of my knowledge true and complete and that the bond/loan applied for herein is not for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 3. I understand that if such information is willfully false, I am subject to criminal prosecution under N.J.S.A. 2C:28-2 and civil action by the EDA which may at its option terminate its financial assistance.
- 4. I authorize the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety to verify any answer(s) contained herein through a search of its records, or records to which it has access, and to release the results of said research to the EDA.
- 5. I authorize the EDA to obtain such information including, but not limited to, a credit bureau check as it may require, covering the applicant and/or its principals, stockholders and/or investors.
- 6. I authorize the EDA to provide information submitted to it by or on behalf of the applicant to any bank or State agency which might participate in the requested financing with the EDA.
 - I am Authorized Signer and I accept the terms and conditions.

Required Attachments

- Application for Tax Clearance
 - <u>Download Application for Tax Clearance Division of Taxation</u>
 (Instructions: Please only complete the information above the dotted line on the application and sign and date at the bottom of the form.)
 - Link to Treasury
 - P.L.2007, C.101
- 3 Years of Financial Statements
- Professional Engineer certification for solar claims, if applicable
- Site Map according to <u>Site Map Specifications</u>
- PDF of the on-line mapping tool found at <u>http://nigin.state.ni.us/OIT_BusinessMap2</u> with applicant's proposed determination of project eligibility and associated report
- CEO Certification
- Additional application questions
- List all local and/or state financial assistance being utilized in the proposed

project including development subsidies being requested or receiving, other state assistance, low interest rate loans, infrastructure improvements, property tax abatements and exemptions, and training grant assistance. Please specify program name, granting body, dollar amounts or value, terms and status of application.

- Material Factor The provision of a grant from the Grow New Jersey Program must be a 'material factor' in a company's decision to retain/relocate/expand operations in New Jersey.
- A. A full economic analysis of all locations under consideration including such components as, but not limited to the cost effectiveness of remaining in this State versus relocation under alternative plans (e.g. Real Estate listings, Tax or other State/Local financial incentives offered to the applicant and <u>Cost Benefit Analysis</u>, which may include cost per square foot, real estate tax, tax incentives, training incentives, labor costs, etc.)
- B. All lease agreements, ownership documents, or substantially similar documentation for the business's current in-State locations
- C. All lease agreements, ownership documents, or substantially similar documentation for the potential out-of-state location alternatives, to the extent they exist
- D. A description of the 'at risk' nature of the employees that may be leaving the State. Include how such issues as the following will be addressed: mobility, labor and regulatory requirements as applicable (e.g., is the lease at the current facility expiring, will there be stranded assets if the business leaves; is the business' labor force required to be in the State; is a union contract required; is a license required to operate in the State).
- E. A specific statement on the role the grant will play in the company's decision-making process to relocate in New Jersey
- Additional Project Information
 - A. Project schedule that identifies projected move dates for each site
- B. A schedule of short-term employment projections of the business in the State based upon the relocation
- C. An estimate of the projected retained State tax revenues resulting from the relocation
- D. A description of the type of contribution the business can make to the long-term growth of the State's economy and a description of the potential impact on the State's economy if jobs are not retained, etc.
- E. A description of any capital investments made by the business at the new business location
- F. Applicants can designate different companies to receive the tax credit; however the recipients must be part of the applicant's 'controlled group'

approved by the EDA. Controlled group is defined pursuant to section 1563 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C.A. § 1563. As such, all companies receiving the allocation must be part of the Project Agreement thereby approved by the EDA. If applicable:

- a. Attach a list noting the percentage (%) allocated to each member of the controlled group of corporations.
- Project Occupant Application (available at <u>www.njeda.com/forms</u>)
- Notice Regarding Affirmative Action/Prevailing Wage, and Green Building Requirements, click here for form.
- Copies of permits (Existing Building Renovation or Addition)

EXHIBIT C

		Page 1
1		
2		
3		
4	NEW JERSEY TASK FORCE	
5	ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
6	AUTHORITY'S TAX INCENTIVES	
7		
8	PUBLIC HEARING	
9	Newark, New Jersey	
10	May 2, 2019	
11		
12	BEFORE:	
13	PROFESSOR RONALD CHEN	
14	JIM WALDEN, ESQ.	
15	MILT WILLIAMS, ESQ.	
16	GEORGIA WINSTON, ESQ.	
17	AVNI PATEL, ESQ.	
18	PABLO QUINONES, ESQ.	
19	DEREK BORCHARDT, ESQ.	
20	JENNIFER PREVETE, ESQ.	
21	STEPHANIE LEVICK, ESQ.	
22		
23	Reported By:	
24	DAVID LEVY, CCR, CLR	
25	Job No. 160109	

	Page 2		Page 3
1	J	1	PROCEEDINGS
2		2	PROF. CHEN: Good morning, everyone.
3		3	My name is Ronald Chen. I'm a professor
4		4	•
			here at Rutgers Law School. I want to
5		5	welcome you all to our second public hearing
6		6	held by the New Jersey Task Force on the
7	May 2, 2019	7	Economic Development Authority's Tax
8	10:00	8	Incentives.
9		9	As most of you already know, Governor
10		10	Philip Murphy signed Executive Order number
11	Public Hearing, held at the Rutgers	11	52 on January 24th, 2019 which established
12	Law School, Baker Trial Courtroom 125, 123	12	the Task Force. I have been appointed to
13	Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102,	13	lead the Task Force as chair and carry out
14	before David Levy, a Certified Court Reporter and	14	the commission to conduct an in-depth
15	Notary Public of the State of New Jersey.	15	examination of the design and implementation
16	Trouty I done of the State of Irew sersey.	16	and oversight of two tax incentive programs.
17		17	Before I further explain our mission
18		18	and goals, let me reintroduce the members of
19		19	•
20		20	my team. I'm assisted in this task by my
			personal Special Counsel, Walden Macht &
21		21	Haran. Jim Walden is leading the team, to
22		22	my left, your right, and he's being assisted
23		23	by Georgia Winston, Milt Williams and Avni
24		24	Patel.
25		25	We also have, sitting to my right,
	Page 4		Page 5
			1496 3
1	Opening remarks - Chen	1	
1 2	Opening remarks - Chen Pablo Ouinones of Ouinones Law serving as	1 2	Opening remarks - Chen
	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as		Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax
2	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate	2	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be
2	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team.	2	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process,
2 3 4	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up	2 3 4	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting
2 3 4 5	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on	2 3 4 5	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other
2 3 4 5 6 7	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks	2 3 4 5	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which I will refer to as the ARP and which is not	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain facts and attaching detailed verified
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain facts and attaching detailed verified information to prove their compliance and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which I will refer to as the ARP and which is not	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain facts and attaching detailed verified
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which I will refer to as the ARP and which is not in any way referring to EDA's own annual	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain facts and attaching detailed verified information to prove their compliance and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which I will refer to as the ARP and which is not in any way referring to EDA's own annual recertification program. Companies can elect to participate in the ARP if they	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain facts and attaching detailed verified information to prove their compliance and good faith. The affidavit and documentation goes well beyond what the EDA typically
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which I will refer to as the ARP and which is not in any way referring to EDA's own annual recertification program. Companies can elect to participate in the ARP if they believe, A, they applied for tax incentives	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain facts and attaching detailed verified information to prove their compliance and good faith. The affidavit and documentation goes well beyond what the EDA typically requires for both programs. During the ARP
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which I will refer to as the ARP and which is not in any way referring to EDA's own annual recertification program. Companies can elect to participate in the ARP if they believe, A, they applied for tax incentives in good faith and B, they are in compliance	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain facts and attaching detailed verified information to prove their compliance and good faith. The affidavit and documentation goes well beyond what the EDA typically requires for both programs. During the ARP process, the Special Counsel team led by
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which I will refer to as the ARP and which is not in any way referring to EDA's own annual recertification program. Companies can elect to participate in the ARP if they believe, A, they applied for tax incentives in good faith and B, they are in compliance with program requirements, by providing	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain facts and attaching detailed verified information to prove their compliance and good faith. The affidavit and documentation goes well beyond what the EDA typically requires for both programs. During the ARP process, the Special Counsel team led by Pablo will investigate the information and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which I will refer to as the ARP and which is not in any way referring to EDA's own annual recertification program. Companies can elect to participate in the ARP if they believe, A, they applied for tax incentives in good faith and B, they are in compliance with program requirements, by providing timely and complete cooperation, a company	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain facts and attaching detailed verified information to prove their compliance and good faith. The affidavit and documentation goes well beyond what the EDA typically requires for both programs. During the ARP process, the Special Counsel team led by Pablo will investigate the information and then make a recommendation as to how to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Pablo Quinones of Quinones Law serving as Special Counsel and providing corporate compliance expertise to the team. I explained the background leading up to our work at our first public hearing on March 28, so I will not repeat those remarks here. Before and after that hearing, our team has been hard at work. Thankfully, the cooperation we're getting from most parties we have contacted has been robust. At the last hearing, I announced my decision to offer an Accelerated Recertification Program for companies, which I will refer to as the ARP and which is not in any way referring to EDA's own annual recertification program. Companies can elect to participate in the ARP if they believe, A, they applied for tax incentives in good faith and B, they are in compliance with program requirements, by providing	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Opening remarks - Chen compliance with the requirements of the tax incentive program. Companies will not be eligible to participate in the ARP process, however, if we have information suggesting that either potential misconduct or other significant irregularities require a deeper investigation, and that is true thus far of approximately nine companies which we have identified as entities of concern. I will come back to that in a moment. To streamline the ARP, I have approved a recertification process that will culminate in companies submitting to the Task Force an affidavit swearing to certain facts and attaching detailed verified information to prove their compliance and good faith. The affidavit and documentation goes well beyond what the EDA typically requires for both programs. During the ARP process, the Special Counsel team led by Pablo will investigate the information and

Page 6 Page 7 1 Opening remarks - Chen Opening remarks - Chen 2 2 either conclude our investigation of that accomplish today, as we have many witnesses. 3 3 But I would like to note one company, or refer for further investigation 4 by Special Counsel, or take other steps 4 difference between this hearing and the last 5 5 depending on other information received by one. At the last hearing, we objected 6 the Task Force. 6 against naming specific companies and 7 7 To date, 41 eligible companies have individuals, in part based on fairness 8 8 concerns and in part because we were at the elected to participate in the ARP. Not 9 9 every company who got a Grow or ERL award, very beginning of our work. 10 10 the two programs at issue, have done so. For some companies, we are still 11 11 For all those companies not in the ARP, I digging into the facts. For others, we know 12 12 much more. We have secured very important plan to go to conduct a thorough 13 investigation of their awards. For 13 documents and corroboration from cooperating 14 14 companies who refuse to cooperate with the witnesses which have helped us better 15 investigation two things will happen: 15 understand some of the critical problems 16 16 I will issue a subpoena for the with some of these applications. And some 17 17 documents, and I will request that the EDA of the comments, including members of the 18 18 determine whether the failure to cooperate legislature, said that the public had the 19 in our probe runs afoul of contractual or 19 right to know more information about what we 20 20 regulatory requirements. are finding as we investigate. 21 21 Today's hearing will focus on a few That is a fair point. Executive Order 22 22 topics, but mainly we plan to present 52 requires us to hold public hearings. And 23 witnesses relevant to EDA's oversight of the 23 part of the purpose of such hearings is to 2.4 24 tax incentive program. In a moment. Jim provide transparency about the design, 25 25 implementation and oversight of the EDA Walden will explain what we hope to Page 8 Page 9 1 1 Opening remarks - Chen Opening remarks - Chen 2 2 programs. And the fact remains that much of us as we undertake our investigation, which 3 the information we will be outlining here goes well beyond the public portion of our 4 4 today is either available through public work. 5 5 record requests or through online searches. Before I pass the microphone to Jim, I 6 6 Thus, I've decided that we should, in also want to thank the EDA for its robust 7 7 today's proceedings, provide certain names cooperation. Our outside counsel has been 8 8 as part of the public record. diligent, helpful and timely in addressing 9 To the extent that any entity or 9 their many requests for documents and 10 10 individual might be adversely portrayed, information. And the EDA's staff has been 11 11 we've endeavored to notify them in advance, very helpful to us and candid with us in 12 12 although we are not required to, and will those efforts. 13 13 give them the opportunity to submit a sworn Although our work does require us to 14 statement with relevant facts which will be 14 examine its past practices, we are heartened 15 15 read at the next day of our proceeding. by their recognition of room for 16 16 And I want to further caution you here improvement and by the professional dedication 17 17 that we are only a few months into our of their employees. 18 18 investigation after an initial ramp-up With that introduction, I would like 19 19 to call on Jim Walden to describe the period. So even adverse inferences we may 20 2.0 testimony we plan to elicit at today's elicit may be tempered or rebutted by other 21 hearing. 21 evidence we may find later. 22 This is a hearing, not a trial. In 2.2 MR. WALDEN: Thank you very much, 23 23 Professor Chen, and I just want to say thank other words, although our mandate requires 24 24 public hearings, everyone should expect us you to a great team that's been working 25 25 to follow the facts wherever they may lead really, really hard all together.

Page 10 Page 11 Opening remarks - Walden Opening remarks - Walden 2 2 to focus on a couple of things; but in So at the first hearing, I emphasized 3 3 the critical importance of people coming particular, on one topic that is both 4 forward to disclose wrongdoing and, as you 4 important and granular, and so I apologize 5 5 alluded to a couple of moments ago, many in advance that what I'm about to say is 6 people have heeded that request. Some have 6 going to get a little wonky, but you can't 7 7 really talk about tax incentives without disclosed, in large ways and small, evidence 8 8 of potential corruption and self-dealing and getting wonky at some point. 9 9 arguable illegal activity. So for businesses desiring tax 10 10 Now, I caveat those statements with incentives, one object of this program that 11 11 the words "potential" and "arguable" because is referred to as Grow New Jersey was to 12 at the end of the day we do not intend to 12 protect jobs in New Jersey that were at risk 13 of leaving the state. 13 base any conclusions that Prof. Chen will Now, whether program applicants 14 14 make based only on confidential sources, 15 although they are a critical first step in 15 actually retained the jobs that they 16 promised is not going to be a subject of 16 finding other evidence of substantiated 17 today's hearing, but will be a subject of 17 claims. 18 18 another hearing later on. But for companies So I suspect today that we're going to 19 with projects all over the state, the 19 hear about a number of different topics. As 20 20 statute and the implemented regulation seem in the last hearing, will hear from a 21 whistleblower about alleged misconduct abundantly clear that, if you are going to 21 22 retain jobs in the state, you must show that 2.2 within one company, and I have a caveat 23 23 about that in a moment. But we will also you're actually considering a location out 24 of the state, meaning that you have an 2.4 hear from some current and some former EDA 25 25 out-of-state location that is bona fide, employees, and we plan with these witnesses Page 12 Page 13 1 Opening remarks - Walden 1 Opening remarks - Walden 2 suitable, and available for your business. 2 interviewed, and you're going to hear from 3 3 And we're going to hear from one witness one of them today, have said that as the 4 4 today who is going to talk about the extent program was administered by the EDA, that 5 5 of diligence that a company needs to do in EOA 2013 required every applicant, including 6 6 order to show that a location was those those moving jobs to Camden from another 7 7 three things; available, suitable and bona city in New Jersey, to demonstrate that the 8 8 fide. jobs were at risk of leaving the state. 9 9 Now, there is one wrinkle and one They couldn't get tax credits if they didn't 10 10 nuance when it comes to jobs that were, prove that. So according to this view, if 11 11 before the Grow allegations in New Jersey, the applicant didn't show a location that 12 12 but they were moving specifically to Camden. was bona fide, suitable and available, they 13 13 And it's that wrinkle that we're going to may not qualify for tax credits. 14 14 explore in some detail through two of the Others within the EDA, however, and 15 15 witnesses today. you'll hear from one of those people today as well, believe that applicants promising 16 Now, this is an important issue, 16 17 17 right? For jobs that are already in New to move jobs from another location in New 18 Jersey and then moving to Camden do have to 18 York to Camden were not actually required by 19 19 prove that there is an out-of-state the statute to show that they were

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location. But what we found is, there's

the EDA itself on this, and those

throughout the organization.

evidence of two schools of thought within

perspectives may not have been well known

First, some of the people that we've

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considering a location out of state. It was

Those same witnesses, though, seem to

just, to move to Camden was enough.

suggest that there may not be a practical

called the net benefit test. And under this

difference because of something that's

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Opening remarks - Walden things called the net benefit test, and I'll try not to get too wonky here, basically the statute required a showing that you only get the money if the application over the years is a net benefit to the state. And under that test, if you're moving jobs from, say, Jersey City to Camden, it's a statewide test. So there's no net benefit to that move from the perspective of the statute, and therefore, you'd get a much lower award.

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So to be clear, in-state move means no net benefit to the job transfer, and so the head count associated with that would get reduced from any award that you get and that could be very significant.

Now, for what it's worth, on that last point about the net benefit test, we have found some evidence that at least one important consultant who handled many applications was giving the same advice to program applicants. They had the same understanding that if you're moving jobs within the state, you don't get any money for those jobs. You don't get credit for

Opening remarks - Walden those retained jobs, and this memo is from a very reputable company called Biggins Lacy Shapiro & Company. It's dated February 25, 2015, and this is one part of what I'm going to say, so I apologize for it, but I think it's important that the record reflect this because it is some objective indicator whether or not the statute required a showing of an out-of-state location.

For those companies that said they were considering a location out of state, it was really material. It was a material representation because it impacted the dollars in significant ways, so let me read this language.

"The most important source of such net benefit is the stimulus resulting from the payroll associated with the jobs based on the proposed project site. As the net benefit analysis is intended to measure the incremental new revenue generated by the project, the state includes the payroll associated with net new jobs created in the state. If applicable" -- the relevant

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Opening remarks - Walden part -- "the state will also include people from existing New Jersey jobs, but only if the company can demonstrate that existing jobs are at risk of leaving the state; i.e., retaining jobs that otherwise would have left the state as supported by comparable economic and fiscal impact as creating new jobs."

So why does all this matter? First of all, qualifying and disqualifying requirements of a multi-billion-dollar tax program should be clear, and it should be clear so that they can properly be understood by businesses and enforced by whatever authority is responsible for vetting the applications and enforcing the rules; and second, if there was an ambiguity in the statute -- and by the way, we're not taking a position on that, we don't necessarily agree that the statute is ambiguous on this -- the EDA as the administering agency really should have one interpretation, not two.

Now, we cannot explain why people

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Opening remarks - Walden working within the EDA had differing perspectives on program requirements concerning this issue of jobs moving within the state but to Camden; but either way, our investigation is clear to me based on the available evidence that, other than one exception that I'll explain in a moment, every single applicant promising to move jobs from within New Jersey to Camden actually certified that they were considering an out-of-state location anyway. And the one exception was a company that said they were going to eliminate the jobs entirely, and that qualifies under a different part of the statute.

So put it another way: For any company seeking to retain jobs in New Jersey that was going to eliminate those jobs, every single application included an out-of-state location to show that those jobs were at risk of leaving the state.

Obviously, these applications are submitted under penalties under the statute. If there is a representation that was made

Page 18 Page 19 1 1 Opening remarks - Walden Opening remarks - Quinones 2 2 in the applications and it turns out that point. Federal law makes it a crime for 3 3 that representation was false, the grants anyone to use mail or interstate wires to 4 are subject to suspension, termination, and 4 devise a scheme to defraud, to obtain money 5 5 recapture and there's a potential of or property by false or fraudulent 6 6 representations. Title 18, United States criminal enforcement. 7 7 Code Section 1341 is the mail fraud statute; Now, I don't want to make too much of 8 8 this. We're at a very early stage of our Section 1343 is the wire fraud statute. 9 9 proceedings, and I'm not suggesting that Now, the Supreme Court has addressed 10 10 will happen. But I do think it's important taxes in this particular context. In a case 11 11 for people that are going to apply to the called Pasquantino vs. United States, the 12 program that they understand the law on this 12 court held that the right to collect taxes 13 area a little bit and for that purpose, I'd 13 is, money or property, protected by the mail 14 14 like to turn to Pablo Quinones. or wire fraud statutes; and the court found 15 MR. QUINONES: Thank you, Jim, thank 15 that tax evasion inflicts an economic injury 16 16 you Prof. Chen. I don't want to make too no less than embezzling funds from the 17 17 much of this point, but as a criminal law government's Treasury. 18 18 practitioner, both as a professor and New Jersey federal cases have followed 19 attorney in this area, I do think it's worth 19 this approach; for example, the Third 2.0 2.0 making plain to the public that there is Circuit in a case called U.S. vs. Yusuf 21 21 real criminal exposure for companies that found that unpaid taxes which are unlawfully 2.2 2.2 lie to the EDA, thereby depriving New Jersey retained by mailing fraudulent tax returns 23 that conceal the amount of tax revenue due of tax revenue. 2.4 2.4 may be considered criminal proceeds subject Several cases applying federal mail 25 25 and wire fraud statutes help me explain my to the federal money laundering laws. Page 20 Page 21 1 1 Opening remarks - Quinones Opening remarks - Walden 2 Finally, in August of 2018, a case 2 that, thirty of them were moving jobs in 3 from the U.S. Court of Appeals makes the state to Camden, one of them was planning to 4 4 point more than clearly in connection with eliminate jobs before the tax credits. 5 5 tax revenue. In Hoffman, the court upheld a But to underscore Pablo's point, we 6 6 fraud conviction that involved defendants very carefully looked at the EDA board 7 7 who had schemed to get Louisiana tax credits approval memos, which is what is submitted 8 by submitting false documents to the state. to the EDA board when a vote is being 9 9 The court found that tax credits reduce the requested of the board members to award 10 10 dollars otherwise owed to the state, and these tax credits. 11 11 lying to obtain them has the same effect as And as you all know, I'm sure, at this 12 12 lying to evade taxes. The state collects point, the amount of dollars is considerable 13 13 less money. and, for the jobs moving to Camden, we're 14 14 In sum, companies that lie to obtain talking about over a billion dollars. But 15 15 tax breaks from New Jersey have hurt New vou'll see in the handout that, in each and 16 every circumstance, for every single one of 16 Jersey's economy, potentially committed a 17 17 serious crime. With that, I'd like to these board memos, there is a statement in 18 18 the board memo that says words to the effect return the floor to Jim. 19 19 MR. WALDEN: Thank you, Pablo. So that these jobs were at risk of leaving the 2.0 2.0 just to underscore this point, first of all, state and on that basis the board is asked 21 for anyone who wants it there is a handout 21 to approve. 2.2 here on this table that has a list, and this 22 So that just underscores the point of 23 23 is all publicly available information that it. This is clearly a material 24 24 lists every company that has -- there are 31 representation. The EDA viewed it as 25 25 companies that I mentioned before, companies material, they included it in the board

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Opening remarks - Walden memos, and the board relied on those assertions in awarding the tax credit that they did.

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And understand as well that these weren't just simple representations by the company. As the program was being administered, the EDA required some proof that the company had identified an out-of-state location that was bona fide, suitable and available, and we're going to hear a little bit about that today.

And in doing that, we're going to take a look at four applications where companies claimed to have an out-of-state location to demonstrate that jobs were at risk, and I want us all to be very, very careful about how we consider this evidence.

EO 52 requires us to do some of our factfinding in public so there's no choice about that. And we're going to be as responsible and careful and moderate as one can imagine in doing it. So understand we're going to put before you factual information. We are not drawing any

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Opening remarks - Walden conclusions today. We are not directly or indirectly insinuating that anyone broke the law.

What we're trying to do is figure out the level of diligence that was applied to these and that's what you're going to hear today.

You're going to hear essentially an expert witness from the EDA who oversees this group of people that's called the underwriters. And they are the ones that are the primary group of people that vet the applications.

And so he's reviewed files that he did not work on at the time, and we're going to put factual information into the record. He's going to give his perspective on whether or not more questions should have been asked, and then we're going to move on.

It very well may be that when we talk to the companies about these, they will have additional information that allays any concern. But again, the point here is not so much about what the company did or didn't

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Opening remarks - Walden do, but the EDA management and vetting of these applications, which is where we're trying to focus.

Okay. So with all that being said, let me just talk about the lineup here.

At a high level, as you've heard in the first day of our proceedings, there was whistleblower, and the whistleblower filed a lawsuit and that lawsuit had a number of different allegations. And again, caution here, right? We want to be careful. We're not saying the whistleblower was telling the truth or not. In a sense, it's not relevant.

What's relevant is that there were very specific allegations that were made about misconduct concerning specific awards, and that was something that could be investigated. And whether it turned out that that investigation yielded information that corroborated or undercut the allegations for any organization, will learn from any experience, and it was an opportunity for the EDA to increase its

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Opening remarks - Walden level of scrutiny, particularly over this idea of phantom locations, and require additional diligence, and articulate some clear rules about what companies, what business records company had to submit, in addition to a draft lease or a lease proposal for the out-of-state location.

So that's, by way of broad context. What we're going to get to today. We're also going to hear from a witness who was aware of the way in which the legislation came to be, and the various individuals that were involved in that legislation. And whoever else was involved in it, we're really going to focus on the involvement of one specific individual at a firm called Parker McCay. So that's broadly what you're going to hear today. The way we are going to frame that is at follows:

First, we're going to start off with my colleague, Jen Prevete. For those of you who did not follow this whistleblower case that actually went to trial, Jen's going to just give people a high-level presentation

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Opening remarks - Walden of the case, how it was resolved, and what the key allegations were. Again, we have not yet investigated those things ourselves, given the focus that we had on these, based on confidential sources; and so for that reason she's not going to mention the names of the companies that were the subject of the allegations, she's just going to describe the applications, so Jen Prevete is

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Then we're going to hear from Fred Cole, and for those who were at the first day of our proceedings, you remember Mr. Cole's name. Mr. Cole was actually deposed during, as the case was brought by a man named David Sucsuz. Mr. Cole was deposed. Mr. Cole actually had been the person that originally investigated his discrimination case where he made the claims of misconduct in that lawsuit, and ultimately, that lawsuit was going on when the comptroller started his audit at Governor Murphy's direction back in January of 2018, and you will recall that there was

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Opening remarks - Walden a specific letter that Cole signed indicating that there was no litigation where former employees were accusing the EDA of any sort of misconduct or fraud.

And Mr. Cole certified that that didn't -- there wasn't one, even though the lawsuit of those allegations was pending at the time. So the comptroller, as you remember, testified that he had no idea about this lawsuit during the course of his audit. We're going to hear from Mr. Cole and get the explanation as to why that happened.

Next we're going to hear from a man named John Boyd, who is at a company called The Boyd Company, a corporate site selection firm based in Princeton, New Jersey. And Mr. Boyd will explain the procedures, processes and analysis that companies typically use when making important decisions of whether to relocate, and where to relocate their offices or facilities and the seriousness with which they make that decision.

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Opening remarks - Walden

Next we will here in a man named David Lawyer, who is an EDA employee. He's actually the manager of the underwriting section. As I said before, he only became a manager of the underwriting section in May of 2017, so for the period where at least we're focusing right now, and everybody understands, I'm sure, that in the nature of our work, we're focusing right now on the issues that we're talking to you about today behind the scenes. We're focusing on a much broader picture and, as we get farther along with our work, we'll bring more information forward.

But I suspect that Mr. Lawyer is going to be a very clear witness who is going to describe the process through which the EDA vets the applications or the way that it was administered in the period of June 2013 to 2017; he's going to talk about the specific issue of out-of-state locations, he's going to talk about the considerations that go into asking additional questions, and he's going to review, as I said before, four

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Opening remarks - Walden applications that he did not work on, and guide us through what the process looked like based on a review of the file.

And the files are very complicated. We're not going to be able to go through all the documents, but he's gone through the files and we're going to give you an overview of his conclusions concerning those applications.

Now, you saw me there being distracted for a second and I made a mistake. It won't be the last time you'll see me make a mistake, but there's another witness that I didn't put in the order that is -- sorry, either before or after Mr. Cole, and that's the whistleblower that I referred to before. Her name is Kerrie-Ann Murray.

Again, because we have not investigated her claims, and because the company very vividly denies them and they believe they have data, we don't have it yet, but they believe they have data showing that her allegations are not correct, we're going to have her not identify her former

Page 30 Page 31 1 1 Opening remarks - Walden Opening remarks - Walden 2 2 employer, and I ask everyone to understand So we're going to ask some very 3 3 this is not a trial, as Chairman Chen said. detailed questions about that version of the 4 We're here under the Executive Order to make 4 bill and how certain of the amendments were 5 5 information that's brought forth in added, and by whom, and what his 6 6 understanding -- Mr. Lizura is, I think that testimony, not to draw conclusions about it. 7 7 And in fairness to everyone, when we you will conclude, a very experienced and 8 8 present information, if we find later on knowledgeable policy expert on tax 9 9 that there's additional information that incentives. He's been doing this, or 10 10 casts doubt on the credibility of some versions of this, throughout much of his 11 11 evidence that we've elicited, we'll either career. We're going to ask him about what 12 notify the public or call witnesses to the 12 policy was behind some of these changes, 13 stand. So we'll hear from Ms. Murray. 13 whether he agreed or disagreed with it, and 14 14 Okay. So after David Lawyer, we're we hope to get his perspective. 15 then going to hear from the former CEO of 15 And then finally we're going to hear 16 16 the EDA, a man named Tim Lizura. And we from Brandon McCoy of the Center on Budget 17 17 and Policy, and he's going to offer us his will ask Mr. Lizura about the role that EDA 18 18 played in drafting the legislation that was perspectives on the involvement of a private 19 created in 2013, and we're going to ask him 19 law firm representing clients in the 20 20 about a draft, that's a pretty specific legislative process, the way in which that 21 21 draft. That was a draft that was created bill was created in this specific instance 22 2.2 with respect to the Economic Opportunity Act and sent to him after the assembly had 23 23 of 2013. already passed its version of the statute, and as the Senate was considering what 24 2.4 And so as you can see, we're going to 25 25 changes to make. try to keep breaks to a minimum today Page 32 Page 33 1 1 Presentation - Prevete Presentation - Prevete 2 2 because it will take quite a bit of effort launched by a former EDA employee. Today I 3 3 for us to stay focused enough to be able to will be working through some of those 4 4 get through all of these witnesses between whistleblower allegations made by this 5 5 now and 5 o'clock, which is our closing. former EDA employee who had worked on the 6 6 Okay. So thank you and I'll return tax incentive program that's the focus of 7 7 the proceedings to the chair. the Task Force's inquiry. 8 8 PROF. CHEN: I think, as Mr. Walden This whistleblower, David Sucsuz, said, the first -- the next item will be the 9 9 alleged that he had witnessed misconduct in 10 10 connection with incentive program approvals, presentation of Ms. Prevete. 11 11 MS. PREVETE: Thank you, Professor and recited that he resisted directives from 12 12 Chen. I would like to introduce this senior management to alter or promote 13 13 presentation into the record as Task Force applications that should have otherwise been 14 14 Exhibit 2. rejected. 15 15 REC'D (Task Force Exhibit 2, The information described in this 16 presentation re Sucsuz litigation, received 16 presentation consists of what we know from 17 17 in evidence, as of this date.) Mr. Sucsuz's lawsuit, and we emphasize that 18 18 MS. PREVETE: As you heard and saw in they remain allegations at this time. 19 19 the first day of this hearing, and as To provide some background about 2.0 2.0 Prof. Chen just mentioned, whistleblowers Mr. Sucsuz, he was an employee with the EDA 21 21 play an integral role in the investigative for over ten years. He started as a legal 22 process. For those of you who are who were 22 assistant in the lending services division, 23 23 not present at the first day of the Task and then became a finance officer with the 24 24 Force's hearing, we showed a brief timeline EDA's bond and incentives division. After 25 25 of a whistleblower complaint that had been that, his title changed to underwriter. As

Page 35 Page 34 1 Presentation - Prevete Presentation - Prevete 2 2 EDA employees. He alleged discrimination a finance officer, and later as an 3 3 underwriter, Mr. Sucsuz's primary and unlawful termination based on violation 4 responsibilities including reviewing 4 of New Jersey's Conscientious Employee 5 5 applications submitted to the EDA under its Protection Act, and based on discrimination. 6 various funding and incentive programs, 6 In addition to his claims of unlawful 7 7 drafting project summaries for those termination and discrimination, Mr. Sucsuz 8 8 alleged various violations of EDA policies, applications and presenting the applications 9 9 regulations and statutory requirements in at project review meetings and incentive 10 10 committee meetings. connection with EDA tax incentives and 11 11 In the context of a lawsuit, finance programs. 12 12 As we reviewed on the first day of our Mr. Sucsuz certified under oath that he was 13 proceeding, after Mr. Sucsuz filed his 13 also responsible for understanding the 14 complaint, various senior leadership team 14 provisions of the applicable program statute 15 and regulations that governed the funding 15 members of the EDA as well as Mr. Sucsuz 16 were deposed in 2017 and early 2018. The 16 and incentive program, and was responsible 17 17 last of these depositions took place on for ensuring that program applicants met the 18 18 January 26, 2018. qualifications required by law. 19 19 Mr. Sucsuz filed an internal complaint The case ultimately went to a jury 20 with the EDA on May 21, 2014. He was 20 trial which started on April 30th, 2018, and 21 lasted eight days. The jury announced its 21 terminated on September 24th, 2014. 22 verdict on May 10th. And while Mr. Sucsuz 2.2 Mr. Sucsuz filed his lawsuit on May 23 23 11, 2015 in New Jersey Superior Court, did not ultimately succeed on his 24 retaliation claim, the jury unanimously 2.4 Mercer County, against the New Jersey 25 found that he had proven his whistleblower 25 Economic Development Authority and several Page 36 Page 37 1 Presentation - Prevete 1 Presentation - Prevete 2 2 allegation by a preponderance of the These include allegations of companies 3 evidence with respect to his claim under the providing phantom alternative locations, 4 4 New Jersey Conscientious Employee Protection allegations of manipulated cost inputs, and 5 5 allegations of falsified job figures. I 6 6 In connection with that finding, the will also briefly describe some of 7 7 jury concluded six to zero that Mr. Sucsuz Mr. Sucsuz's allegations and some of the 8 had proven by a preponderance of the 8 testimony related to external pressures on 9 9 evidence that he had a reasonable belief EDA employees. 10 10 that the New Jersey Economic Development Mr. Sucsuz alleged that the EDA 11 11 Authority had violated a law, rule or required applicants to demonstrate that the 12 regulation in the processing of applications 12 alternative and competing out-of-state 13 for loan grants and tax incentives. 13 locations are legitimate and comparable to 14 Mr. Sucsuz alleged that during his 14 the New Jersey site as part of the material 15 tenure as an underwriter in the bond and 15 factor requirement for certain of the tax 16 incentives division of the EDA between 16 incentive programs. It is a requirement of 17 17 September 2011 and September 2014, members the Grow New Jersey grant that an applicant 18 of the EDA management team had instructed 18 is deciding between a legitimate alternative 19 19 him to falsify various grants and tax location and the New Jersey location that 2.0 2.0 incentive applications in violation of rules the company seeks to be the subject of the 21 2.1 and regulations for grants and tax incentive grow NJ grant. 22 funding. I will now walk you through some 22 Mr. Sucsuz alleged that in connection 23 23 of Mr. Sucsuz's allegations of misconduct with this requirement, he notified EDA 24 24 related to the administration of the tax management that the competing out-of-state 25 25 incentive program. locations just were not real. He further

Page 38 Page 39 1 Presentation - Prevete Presentation - Prevete 2 2 alleged senior management took no action in submitting an application for a Grow NJ tax 3 3 response to his concerns, and the incentive grant. Mr. Sucsuz further 4 application of companies with apparently 4 testified that the alternate location 5 5 phantom alternative locations were approved provided was at a site where the company 6 6 already had offices. He alleged that he anyway. 7 7 Mr. Sucsuz gave several examples of reported his concerns to EDA management but 8 8 that nobody took any action. specific project applications that allegedly 9 9 involved what he referred to as the phantom With respect to a third application, 10 10 locations. For company A, Mr. Sucsuz Mr. Sucsuz testified that the applicant was 11 11 testified that one applicant's proposed already in New Jersey but wanted to move to 12 alternate locations appeared not to be real 12 a different part of the state. The company 13 13 because it was provided after the EDA had identified an alternate location in North or 14 14 South Carolina. Mr. Sucsuz testified that asked for it, and it didn't seem to be 15 comparable to the location in New Jersey in 15 because he could not conduct a site visit, 16 16 numerous ways, including differences with he tried to find the alternate location 17 17 the site's dimensions and certain issues through Google Maps but was unable to do so 18 18 with accessibility, which was relevant based on the information provided by the 19 because the management of the company would 19 applicant. 2.0 20 be traveling to the location. When he raised this issue to his 21 21 Mr. Sucsuz testified that another supervisor, he was told that since the 22 22 company seemed to be relying on a phantom applicant was a furniture company, he only 23 alternative location because it had already 23 needed to know that North and South Carolina 24 24 moved into a New Jersey location and was were popular for furniture companies. 25 25 Mr. Sucsuz testified that another even hiring for this new site prior to Page 40 Page 41 1 1 Presentation - Prevete Presentation - Prevete 2 2 applicant had initially mentioned an testified, however, that the first proposed 3 3 alternate location in New York, but was alternate location was not suitable because 4 4 unable to provide an address for that it did not fit the company's description and 5 5 location, and then claimed to have a second need. The company then proposed a 6 6 alternate location in Pennsylvania. He build-to-suit location but did not provide 7 7 any construction contracts or other further testified that when the applicant 8 8 submitted his application, he provided a indicators. 9 9 city as the alternate location but was Thus, upon review of the second 10 10 unable to provide a specific address. alternate location, Mr. Sucsuz determined 11 11 Ultimately, after several requests, the that the alternate location was not suitable 12 company provided more information about this 12 because the company would have to complete 13 13 alternative, but only after the application its personalized build-out in Pennsylvania 14 had been submitted. 14 within a year, which seemed unlikely. 15 15 Furthermore, Mr. Sucsuz testified that the Mr. Sucsuz suspected that the 16 16 alternate location was fabricated for company had already indicated its intention 17 17 purposes of the application. Mr. Sucsuz to expand in New Jersey. This application 18 also testified that it took much effort to 18 was also approved. 19 19 obtain the information regarding the Mr. Sucsuz testified that in another 2.0 2.0 alternate location address and terms sheet, instance, an application lacked a material 21 21 noting that this was a teeth-pulling factor showing because of a phantom 22 22 exercise. alternate site. He testified that the 23 23 applicant failed to provide an alternate Mr. Sucsuz further testified that 24 24 another applicant provided a Pennsylvania location at first, and while they ultimately 25 25 location as part of its alternatives. He did provide an out-of-state location, he

Page 42 Page 43 1 Presentation - Prevete Presentation - Prevete 2 2 could not verify its existence, and cost/benefit or the net benefit test in 3 3 understood that they had already decided to order to qualify a company that would not 4 move to a location within New Jersey. 4 have otherwise qualified under the cost 5 5 Mr. Sucsuz's supervisor testified that input the company provided. When he refused 6 the application included some odds and ends 6 to alter the cost input, Mr. Sucsuz's 7 7 that made it seem as though the company supervisor would do it himself. 8 8 might have committed to New Jersey already. Mr. Sucsuz alleged that when the net 9 9 Mr. Sucsuz's supervisor, along with others benefit analysis showed little or no net 10 10 in EDA management, visited this company's benefit to New Jersey, his supervisor asked 11 11 offices for due diligence purposes, and his him to change the input to the calculations 12 supervisor concluded that the company had 12 to make it show a benefit. When Mr. Sucsuz 13 13 already committed to staying in New Jersey. refused to do it, his supervisor would do 14 14 this himself. Nevertheless, the company's Grow 15 application was approved and although this 15 Mr. Sucsuz testified that in other 16 16 company ultimately withdrew from the program instances, companies falsified job figures 17 17 and did not receive a tax credit, to obtain Grow awards. A grants recipient's 18 Mr. Sucsuz's supervisor testified at a 18 eligibility and award amount under the 19 deposition that it was an inadvertent 19 Grow NJ program is based in part on the 2.0 20 slip-up that the application was approved. number of jobs created; thus, the more jobs 21 21 Mr. Sucsuz alleged that there were that are created, the greater potential tax 22 22 other ways that applicants manipulated their incentive grant. 23 applications that EDA had overlooked. He 23 In one example, Mr. Sucsuz testified 2.4 24 testified that he was directed to alter or that he objected to an application because 25 25 the company had very limited space for the manipulate costs input through the Page 44 Page 45 1 Presentation - Prevete 1 Presentation - Prevete 2 2 number of employees for which they were falsified job figures, Mr. Sucsuz alleged 3 3 trying to create jobs. Specifically, that there were external pressures on EDA 4 4 Mr. Sucsuz testified that one company employees related to grant applicants. 5 5 indicated it would employ 150 employees at Mr. Sucsuz alleged that representatives from 6 6 its new location in Camden. However, that other public offices would call and inquire 7 7 location only had nine thousand square feet about certain applications regarding when 8 8 of working space when four or five times they would be approved, and for what award 9 9 that square footage would have been required size. 10 10 to accommodate that many employees. Mr. Sucsuz also recalled hearing EDA 11 11 When confronted with this fact, the senior management complaining of these 12 12 company indicated that it was running three public officials overstepping with the EDA 13 13 eight-hour shifts at the site. Mr. Sucsuz and being too involved in the approval 14 testified that he objected to the 14 process. Other EDA witnesses, during the 15 application because advertising companies, 15 course of the litigation, similarly noted 16 16 like Company G, do not operate on a that there's always pressure from the 17 17 24-hour-per-day schedule. But his outside. 18 supervisor told him not to include that 18 This concludes the Task Force's 19 19 information in the project summary. presentation regarding this whistleblower 2.0 2.0 Mr. Sucsuz alleged his supervisor directed lawsuit. him to change the project summary to reflect 21 21 Thank you. Turn it back over to my 2.2 inaccurate information. 22 colleague. 23 23 Finally, in addition to his PROF. CHEN: Thank you, Ms. Prevete. 24 24 allegations about false or phantom I have no further questions at this time. 25 25 locations, manipulated cost input, and So the next, we will hear the testimony of

Page 46 Page 47 1 1 Cole - examination/Levick Cole - examination/Levick 2 2 Frederick Cole of the EDA, and that will be approximately 2012 or 13. 3 3 presented by Ms. Levick. A. Correct. 4 FREDERICK COLE, having been first 4 Q. And how long have you been at the EDA? 5 5 duly sworn, was examined and testified as A. For approximately 24 years. 6 6 Q. And have you been advised of your right follows: 7 7 have counsel at the EDA? **EXAMINATION BY** 8 8 MS. LEVICK: A. Yes. 9 9 Q. Good morning, Mr. Cole. Thank you for Q. And are you, is your counsel here 10 joining us today. 10 today? 11 11 A. Good morning. A. Yes. 12 Q. Could you please state and spell your 12 Q. And before I begin, I just want to make 13 name for the record. 13 sure that you understand that you are here to tell 14 14 the truth today. A. Yes, it's Frederick Cole. 15 And Mr. Cole, where do you currently 15 A. Yes. Q. 16 16 work? Q. And is there any reason that you are 17 17 unable to provide truthful and accurate testimony A. I work at the NJEDA. 18 18 O. And what is your current role at the today? 19 EDA? 19 A. No reason. 20 20 Q. And so, we spoke on the phone the other A. I'm a senior vice-president of 21 operations. I'm essentially the business support. 21 day, is that correct? 22 2.2 Q. And how long did you held that A. Yes. 23 23 position? Q. And I never met you in person. And 24 24 A. For about seven years. just for the record, I just also want to confirm 25 25 that you met with two of my colleagues, Ms. Patel Q. So you've been in this role since Page 48 Page 49 1 Cole - examination/Levick 1 Cole - examination/Levick 2 and Mr. Williams, on April 12th? 2 the tax incentive program even though you didn't 3 3 A. I did. personally work with them. 4 4 Q. And did you provide truthful and A. Correct. accurate responses during both the telephone call 5 5 Q. And so at some point at the EDA, did 6 that we had and the meeting that you had with my 6 you also take on a role as an EEO officer, Equal 7 7 Employment Opportunity officer? colleagues? 8 8 A. Yes. A. Yes. 9 9 Q. And so you are a senior vice-president O. And when was that? 10 of operations at the EDA, is that right? 10 A. I believe that was concurrent with my 11 11 A. Correct. promotion to senior vice-president in 2012. 12 12 Q. All right. And can you please tell us Q. Can you tell us a little bit about your 13 responsibility in this role. 13 a little bit about your role and responsibilities 14 A. Yes. Essentially, like I said 14 as an EEO officer. earlier, it's a business support role, so I'm 15 15 A. Essentially, the role is liaison 16 16 responsible for overseeing the back office responsibility with the State Civil Service 17 17 operations of the authority, functions such as IT, Commission, where I work to ensure that the state 18 HR, accounting and financial reporting, internal 18 law against discrimination is upheld, is 19 audit, procurement, and labor stats. 19 protected, and that proper training occurs within 20 2.0 Q. And in your role as a senior our agency. 21 21 vice-president, do you have any role or Q. Great. And so was one of your 22 responsibility in connection with the EDA tax 22 responsibilities as the EEO officer to investigate 23 23 incentive program? allegations of discrimination by EDA employees? 24 24 A. A minimal role. A. Yes. 25 25 Q. But you at least have some awareness of Q. And so in May 2014, did you receive a

Page 50 Page 51 1 1 Cole - examination/Levick Cole - examination/Levick 2 2 complaint alleging discrimination filed by an EDA Q. And moving forward a year, after you 3 3 employment named base David Sucsuz? issued this final finding on the discrimination 4 A. I did. 4 claim, do you recall that Mr. Sucsuz filed a 5 5 Q. Did you review the allegations in his lawsuit in New Jersey Superior Court? 6 6 complaint? A. Yes. 7 7 A. I did. Q. And that was against the EDA and other 8 8 Q. Is it your recollection that he had individuals at the EDA? 9 9 alleged that he had been discriminated against by a A. That's correct. 10 10 supervisor? Q. And did you read the complaint? 11 11 A. That's correct. 12 12 Q. And in fact, you were one of the named Q. And did you investigate these claims? 13 13 defendants as well. A. I did. 14 14 Q. Did you do that alone or with others? A. Yes. 15 A. Alone. 15 Q. And as part of the litigation, you were 16 16 Q. And what was the result of your also deposed over the course of two days? 17 17 A. That's correct. investigation? 18 18 A. My investigation found that there was O. And that was in late October 2017? 19 no nexus between any of the roughly 30 allegations 19 A. I'm sorry, I didn't hear the end. 20 that were made and any violations of the state 20 Q. 2017, in October 2017 --21 21 policy against discrimination. A. Yes, that's correct. 22 2.2 O. And in or around September 2014, is it Q. And so is it fair to say that you were 23 your recollection that Mr. Sucsuz was terminated 23 pretty involved in the litigation both as a 24 24 from the EDA? defendant and as a senior official at the EDA? 25 25 A. Correct. A. Yes. Page 52 Page 53 1 1 Cole - examination/Levick Cole - examination/Levick 2 2 Q. So what, if any, reactions do you have A. Yes. 3 3 to the referenced allegations in this complaint? Q. I'm going to direct you to the binder 4 4 A. I have to say personally, I was a that is on the table in front of you. And if you 5 5 could turn to tab 3 -little bit shocked that not only did the Claimant 6 6 MS. LEVICK: -- and I want to move allege that he was fired because of retaliatory 7 7 measures, because of the EEO claim, but also this document into the record as Task Force 8 8 because there were new allegations that were Exhibit 3. 9 brought up that, prior to that time, I had never 9 REC'D (Task Force Exhibit 3, binder 10 seen or heard of. 10 containing materials re Sucsuz complaint, 11 11 Q. And so just to be clear for the record, received in evidence, as of this date.) 12 12 none of these new claims had been alleged in that Q. Do you recognize this document? 13 13 discrimination claim he filed in the year 2014. A. Yes. 14 A. That is correct. 14 Q. And does it appear to be a cover letter 15 15 Q. So part of the reason you were so attaching or including the Sucsuz complaint that was filed in 2015? 16 16 surprised is that these new claims now indicated 17 17 misconduct on behalf of both individuals of the EDA A. Yes. 18 and, potentially, applicants to the EDA program? 18 Q. Do you recognize the handwriting on this document to be yours? 19 A. Yes. 19 20 20 Q. So had you ever seen any other A. Yes. 21 21 complaints like this in your 24 years at the EDA? Q. Could you please read the handwritten 22 A. No, I haven't. 22 notes that are in the corner there. 23 23 Q. And so is it fair to say that seeing A. Okay. "Denying Sandy applicants, 24 this particular complaint for the first time was 24 prevailing wage, construction (bond), no 25 25 very memorable? prevailing wage, one new job for tax-exempt debt.

Page 54 Page 55 1 1 Cole - examination/Levick Cole - examination/Levick 2 2 introduce this into the record as Task Force Location costs, net benefits test, phantom 3 3 locations bracket in/out to Susan Margie, film, Exhibit 4. 4 less than 60 percent costs in New Jersey," and 4 REC'D (Task Force Exhibit 4, complaint 5 5 filed by Sucsuz in 5/15, tab 4 in binder, "Grow non-profits (excluded)." 6 Q. Thank you. Is it your understanding 6 received in evidence, as of this date.) 7 7 that these notes reference some of the eligibility Q. Do you recognize this as the complaint 8 8 requirements under the EDA tax incentive program? that was filed by Mr. Sucsuz in May of 2015? 9 9 A. Yes, some of the items do. A. Yes. 10 10 Q. And so is it your understanding that Q. And if you turn to page 6 and paragraph 11 11 location costs and net benefit tests are potential 21, and I'll give you just a moment to read that 12 considerations related to the company's eligibility 12 paragraph to yourself. 13 13 for a tax incentive award? (A pause in the proceedings.) 14 14 A. Yes. A. Okay. 15 Q. And is it your understanding that 15 Q. And does this refresh your recollection 16 phantom locations could potentially be a problem 16 that Mr. Sucsuz alleged that he was treated with 17 related to a company's eligibility for a tax 17 hostility after he complained that applicants that 18 incentive award? 18 did not meet the program requirements were 19 A. Yes. 19 nevertheless receiving funding or tax credits? 20 Q. So I would like to just walk through a 20 A. Yes, that's the nature of the 21 21 couple of examples that Ms. Prevete has mentioned allegation. 22 2.2 briefly that are alleged in Mr. Sucsuz's claims. Q. And if you can turn back a couple of 23 So if you could please turn to the 23 pages to page 4, and we'll take a look at paragraph 24 24 following tab, Tab 4 --15. And just take a moment to read that. 25 25 MS. LEVICK: -- and I'm going to (A pause in the proceedings.) Page 56 Page 57 1 1 Cole - examination/Levick Cole - examination/Levick 2 2 fact have a benefit to the state? A. Okay. 3 3 Q. And does this refresh your recollection A. I'm sorry, the last part of your 4 4 that Mr. Sucsuz alleged that he found some statement, that's correct, and that's the nature 5 5 applicants were giving phantom locations for their of the allegation. 6 out-of-state alternatives, a requirement of some of 6 Q. And is it a fair statement that your in 7 the EDA tax incentive programs, and yet those 7 order regarding the net benefit test and the 8 8 applications were still being approved? documents that we read previously is a reference to 9 9 A. Yes, that's the nature of the this allegation? 10 10 A. Yes. allegation also. 11 11 Q. And is it a fair conclusion that your Q. And if you take a look at page 4, 12 handwritten note on the document that we previously 12 paragraph 17, take a moment to read that. looked at regarding the phantom locations is a 13 13 (A pause in the proceedings.) 14 reference to this allegation? 14 A. Okav. 15 15 A. Yes. Q. And does this refresh your recollection 16 16 Q. And if you could take a look at the that Mr. Sucsuz alleged that certain projects that 17 17 page preceding, page 3, paragraph 14, and take a should have been excluded from receiving a tax 18 moment to read that to yourself. 18 incentive award were nevertheless approved under 19 (A pause in the proceedings.) 19 the Grow New Jersey program? 20 2.0 A. Okay. A. Not clear -- I think that's an 21 2.1 Q. And does this refresh your recollection overgeneralization. But if you could just 22 a Mr. Sucsuz alleged that, when some applications 22 rephrase the question? 23 23 showed little or no net benefit to the state, after Q. Sure. Is it -- does this refresh your 24 he refused, his manager went ahead and changed 24 recollection that Mr. Sucsuz alleged that he 25 25 those numbers to show that the applications did in objected to a certain program's approval for a tax

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Cole - examination/Levick incentive award on the basis that it was a nonprofit and non-profits were excluded from the tax incentive awards?

- A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. And is it a fair conclusion that your note on the previous document we looked at regarding the "Grow non-profits excluded" is a reference to this allegation?
 - A. Yes.

1.0

- Q. And so would you agree, Mr. Cole, that these allegations indicate conduct related to the EDA tax incentive program?
 - A. Sorry, would I agree?
- Q. That these allegations implicate conduct related to the EDA tax incentive program?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Specifically, do the allegations identify potential fraud or misrepresentation in the application submitted to the EDA for tax incentive awards, is that right?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And some of the these allegations also focused on the EDA's review and approval of tax incentive awards.

Cole - examination/Levick

- A. Yes.
- Q. And so earlier, you had testified that Mr. Sucsuz's had filed a complaint in 2014, and you looked into those discrimination claims.

Now, turning back to the 2015 time period, did you discuss with anyone at the EDA, after this complaint was filed in 2015, whether the EDA should conduct an internal investigation into the allegations that Mr. Sucsuz made?

- A. I did not.
- Q. And why not?
- A. Sitting here today, as I look back, probably for a few reasons. One, I conducted what I thought was a thorough investigation of the EEO claims and as I said, I found no nexus between the claims and any violation of state policy.

Lots of the actual claims themselves, the allegations themselves, were baseless. And based on the timing of, you know, sort of when the employee was put on performance improvement plan as compared to when he came to me with his EEO claims, you know, it seemed like this was a frivolous lawsuit and, when I learned the new allegations, and that I was actually somehow part

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Cole - examination/Levick of the -- he alleged that I was somehow part of firing the employee for making those allegations, I guess I just thought they were baseless and there was -- he was looking for sort of a larger lawsuit payout.

And then also, I guess in my mind at the time, the Attorney General's office was involved with the claim. So, you know, I was looking for guidance as to next steps.

Q. So just to recap a little bit on what you just said, you testified that you found that his EEO discrimination complaints were unfounded. But you've also testified that he raised new, brand-new allegations regarding misconduct or potential misconduct of applicants and at the EDA.

So is it your testimony that you did not investigate these new claims because the discrimination claims were baseless?

A. Not directly, no. I was just kind of setting the scene when you asked me why things weren't followed up on. I guess another example is, we've never really had a situation like this where new allegations that EDA's management was unaware of came through, you know, a lawsuit

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Cole - examination/Levick claim. So it was different and it was a different type of scenario here.

- Q. So then, is it your testimony that no investigation in fact was ever conducted into these allegations?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. But would it be your belief that your colleagues took these things seriously, the new claims?
 - A. Absolutely.
- Q. And yet they still took no effort to conduct an investigation into the claims?
- A. They did not. Again, I think they were waiting to see how it played out at trial.
- Q. Okay. And so based on what you know now, given that no investigation was conducted, is it possible that some or all of the allegations are true?
 - A. I don't know. They could be.
- Q. And so do you know who within the EDA would have made the decision whether or not to initiate an investigation?
- A. As I said, I think this case was different because of the way the claims had come

Page 62 Page 63 1 1 Cole - examination/Levick Cole - examination/Levick 2 2 through. It wasn't a case where we were notified a precautionary measure? 3 3 by the employee at the time. But had it been a A. Sort of concurrent with the timing of 4 typical -- and we do not -- we have many of these, 4 that case, there have been lots of audits and 5 5 I can't even recall another instance, but if it reviews of EDA programs. I think we've learned a 6 were a typical whistleblower case, it would 6 lot along the way, and have begun to put many 7 7 probably be me who would receive that information different, other controls in place over the same 8 and work with others to decide next steps, doing 8 time period. Whether historically related to 9 9 the investigation. these allegations in this complaint, I can't make 10 10 Q. Would you agree that the allegations, that connection. 11 if true, could have a very serious impact on the 11 Q. And do you recall the outcome of the 12 EDA? 12 litigation? 13 13 A. I don't know. A. Yes. The jury found for the EDA. 14 14 Q. Okay. And can you please turn to tab Q. Okay. But if the allegations were 15 true, would you agree that a significant amount of 15 6. 16 money that had been allocated as tax credits could 16 MS. LEVICK: I'm going to introduce 17 have been improperly awarded? 17 this into the record as Task Force 18 A. I don't know. 18 Exhibit 5. 19 Q. But would you agree that some amount of 19 REC'D (Task Force Exhibit 5, jury 20 money would have been allocated improperly if these 20 verdict sheet from Sucsuz trial, received in 21 21 allegations were true? evidence, as of this date.) 22 22 A. Yes, it's possible. Q. And is this the jury verdict sheet from 23 Q. And so, did the allegations, to your 23 the trial that you just mentioned? 2.4 24 knowledge, cause the EDA to retrain any of its A. Yes. 25 25 staff handling these tax incentive applications as Q. And could you please read the first Page 64 Page 65 1 Cole - examination/Levick 1 Cole - examination/Levick 2 paragraph into the record. The answer. 2 O. And were there any efforts to 3 3 A. "CEPA count 1: Has plaintiff proven reevaluate these policies and procedures in the tax 4 4 by a preponderance of the evidence that he had a incentive programs to prevent the kind of fraud or 5 5 misrepresentations, or detect the type of fraud and reasonable belief that the New Jersey Economic 6 Development Authority violated a law, rule or 6 misrepresentations that Mr. Sucsuz alleged on 7 regulation in the processing of applications for 7 behalf of the applicant? 8 8 loans, grants, and tax incentives?" And the A. I'm not aware of all or many of the 9 9 answer is yes. specific steps, but I would say yes, there are 10 10 some that I could think of. Q. Thank you. And so after the jury 11 11 finding, did the EDA conduct an investigation into Q. And was that as a result of this trial 12 any of Mr. Sucsuz's claims about the EDA's 12 or just as a general matter at the EDA? 13 13 administration of tax incentive programs? A. I would say as a general matter. 14 14 Q. And so moving forward a couple of years A. No. 15 15 into 2018, so you're aware that Governor Murphy O. And after the verdict was issued, you 16 16 had mentioned just previously that, during this directed the New Jersey State Comptroller to 17 17 time that you gave us for internal processes, but conduct an audit of the EDA oversight of tax 18 as a result of this verdict, are you aware of any 18 incentive programs, correct? 19 effort to review whether its internal policies and 19 A. Correct. 20 20 procedures were sufficiently robust with respect to Q. And that audit began in February or 21 21 the tax incentive programs? March of 2018? 22 A. Seems like a broad question. Robust, 22 A. Yes. 23 23 um -- among other things, the EDA looked at policy O. And at that time, you were still, and

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and process around the incentive programs in

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general.

operations, right?

you still are now, the senior vice-president of

Page 67 Page 66 Cole - examination/Levick Cole - examination/Levick 2 2 A. Yes. A. Correct. 3 3 Q. And so were you involved with the audit Q. And one of those categories included 4 from the EDA side? 4 documents related to all litigations pending and 5 5 A. Yes. federal claims during a ten-year period starting 6 6 from 2010 to tend of the audit, is that correct? Q. And what was your role in the audit? 7 7 A. Generally, when the audit was A. Yes. 8 8 initiated, I met with the comptroller's office Q. And in your role as the senior 9 9 team to ensure that they had all the resources vice-president, and as the audit liaison as you've 10 10 that they needed, that introductions were made, described, you would have been responsible for 11 11 requirements, you know, regarding space and sort gathering, reviewing and producing documents 12 of infrastructure where the audit itself took 12 responsive to that request, is that right? 13 13 place; and I was sort of the, I guess, audit A. To some degree, yes. 14 14 Q. And what's the degree that's not yes? liaison in terms of ensuring that comptrollers had 15 everything that they needed to conduct the audit. 15 A. Again, I sort of had an oversight role 16 16 Q. This meeting that you just referred to, to make sure that documents and such that they 17 17 is it the opening conference that Top Comptroller requested were produced in a timely manner. My --18 18 Degnan may have mentioned at the last hearing, or seemed to be more general nature, way less than 19 19 you may not have heard -- but you understand there some of the problematic projects that were needed 20 was a sort of kickoff or opening conference of the 20 and requests that were made. 21 21 audit, is that is that meeting referred to? Q. I understand. So that ten-year period 22 22 A. Yes. that I just mentioned, the approximately ten-year 23 23 period from 2010 to the end of the audit, that Q. And do you recall during this kickoff 24 24 meeting that the comptroller discussed a number of period covered May 2015 when Mr. Sucsuz filed his 25 25 complaint in New Jersey Superior Court? document production categories? Page 68 Page 69 1 Cole - examination/Levick 1 Cole - examination/Levick 2 2 A. That is correct. MS. LEVICK: I'm going to introduce 3 3 this document as Task Force Exhibit 6. Q. And so did you turn over or inform the 4 4 Comptroller's Office of the Sucsuz complaint? (Task Force Exhibit 6, document REC'D 5 5 A. I did not. tabbed 6 in binder, received in evidence, as 6 Q. And why not? 6 of this date.) 7 7 A. I believe my thought process was Q. And do you recognize this document? 8 8 that -- it actually didn't occur to me that that A. Yes. 9 9 particular case was related to anything that they Q. And there's some handwriting and markup 10 10 along the pages. Do you recognize that as your were investigating regarding programs. It seemed 11 11 to be characterized in my mind as more of an handwriting? 12 12 A. Yes. employment-related litigation. 13 13 Q. I just want to make sure the record is Q. And could you please turn to the second 14 clear on this. You did not report it because you 14 page. There's a paragraph 9. And it says, 15 15 "Lawsuits and Audits." And next to it, says, thought that his complaint was employment-related, 16 16 Mr. Sucsuz's complaint was employment-related, or "Management must report all known lawsuits, 17 17 was it your testimony that the audit was not mediations and arbitration claims pending or 18 18 settled," and it goes on. And next to that investigating programs? 19 19 A. I guess what I'm saying is, you asked paragraph, there's a handwritten note that says, 20 2.0 me if we turned over anything related to the case "Program-specific." And that's your handwriting, 21 21 to the comptroller and the answer was no. It just is that right? 22 was something that didn't occur to me that it was 22 A. Yes. 23 23

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something they were looking for.

of your binder.

Q. Okay. Could you please turn to tab 7

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what that means?

O. And do you have an understanding of

A. I actually don't recall what that

Page 70 Page 71 1 1 Cole - examination/Levick Cole - examination/Levick 2 2 Q. Could you please turn to the next tab, means. 3 3 O. Okay. But you understood that the tab 8. 4 comptroller's audit was about EDA tax incentive 4 MS. LEVICK: And I'm going to mark 5 5 programs, right? this into the record as Task Force 6 6 A. Yes. Exhibit 7. 7 7 Q. In fact it says it right in the header, REC'D (Task Force Exhibit 7, management 8 it says, "Economic Incentive Programs"? 8 representation letter dated 1/3/19 signed by 9 9 Cole, received in evidence, as of this A. Yes. 10 Q. And so is it a fair assumption that the 10 date.) 11 11 term "program-specific" referred to litigation and A. Okay. 12 audits relating to the incentive programs? 12 Q. And do you recognize this as a 13 A. Perhaps. It could have. Again, I 13 management representation letter that you signed at 14 14 don't remember the specific discussions at the the end of the comptroller's audit? 15 opening meeting. 15 A. Yes. 16 16 Q. And you see that it's dated January Q. And just to recap on your testimony 17 from earlier, you testified that the allegations in 17 3rd, 2019? 18 Mr. Sucsuz's 2015 lawsuit involved EDA tax 18 A. Yes. 19 incentive programs, is that right? 19 Q. And did you draft this letter? 2.0 20 A. Yes. A. No. 21 Q. And so at the end of the audits, were 21 Q. Is it your understanding that someone 22 22 from the Comptroller's Office drafted it? you asked to sign a letter confirming certain 23 information had been provided to the comptroller's 23 A. Yes. 24 24 audit? Q. But you reviewed the contents and 25 25 A. Yes. substance of the letter. Page 72 Page 73 Cole - examination/Levick 1 Cole - examination/Levick 1 2 2 A. Yes. A. "We have disclosed all details 3 3 Q. And do you have an understanding of concerning any pending claims, assessments and 4 4 what the purpose was of this letter? litigation against us of which we are aware, and 5 5 A. Generally, a management representation which would have a significant effect on financial 6 letter, that's the standard issue in many audits 6 operations." 7 7 and reviews at the end of the process to ensure Q. And just turning back to the first 8 8 that, you know, all representations that were made page, in the first paragraph, you see, it says this 9 9 during the audit are acknowledged by management. is for the period of January 1, 2010 to January 10 Q. So this is a representation of 10 3rd, 2019, is that right? 11 information that had already been provided to the 11 A. Correct. 12 comptroller during the course of the audit? 12 Q. And do you recall making these 13 A. Yes. 13 representations? 14 Q. And could you please read on the first 14 A. Yes. 15 15 page, paragraph 5, the first line where it says, Q. And prior to signing this letter, did 16 16 "We had no knowledge of any," and then going on to you discuss this letter with anyone else? 17 the next page there's a second bullet, if you could 17 A. I did not. 18 just read those things out loud into the record. 18 Q. Do you recall having discussed whether 19 A. "We have no knowledge of any 19 to disclose the Sucsuz litigation to the 20 20 allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting comptroller's audit? 21 21 the entity received in communications from A. No. 22 employees, former employees, analysts, regulators, 22 Q. Are you aware of whether anyone else in 23 23 or others." fact turned over the information to the comptroller 24 Q. Could you also read paragraph 8 into 24 during this audit? 25 25 the record. A. I honestly don't recall and don't

Page 74 Page 75 1 1 Cole - examination/Levick Cole - examination/Levick 2 2 different manner that we didn't turn it over, that remember anyone else on my team that turned that 3 3 over. I sort of recall I may have turned over a was not -- I was not aware. 4 hard copy of what was an inventory, if you will, 4 Q. But you agree, right, that Mr. Sucsuz's 5 allegations directly relate to the tax incentive 5 of litigation against the EDA that the Attorney 6 General's office prepared on behalf of the annual 6 programs that were the subject of the comptroller's 7 7 financial statement audit, but I honestly don't audit? 8 8 recall whether that was turned over to the A. Yes. Actually, looking back at it for 9 9 you, can I see where that connection would be comptroller's. 10 Q. You don't have an independent 10 made. 11 11 recollection of actually turning over this Q. So in retrospect, should the 12 litigation material to the comptroller's audit. 12 Comptroller's Office have been provided with 13 A. That's correct. 13 information regarding this litigation? 14 14 A. Yes, but I wouldn't say limited to the Q. And again, just to be clear, this would 15 have been your responsibility, right, given that 15 Sucsuz litigation, that case. I would say it was 16 16 any litigation related to the scope of the work you signed a letter representing that all 17 17 information had been turned over? during that time period. 18 18 Q. Are you aware of any other litigation A. Yes, for the most part. 19 19 Q. Did anyone direct you to withhold the that was limited to the scope of their work in that 20 information from the comptroller? 20 time period? 21 21 A. I can think of some project-related A. No. 22 2.2 items. But whether they fell into the scope of Q. So in part, by not turning it over, the 23 comptroller did not know about the specific and 23 the audit or if they were interested in it or not, 24 24 detailed allegations of fraud? I couldn't tell you. I would prefer to share 25 25 A. Unless they learned about it in a everything with them and let them decide what they Page 76 Page 77 1 1 Cole - examination/Levick Cole - examination/Walden 2 2 Q. In fact, there were -- even as the will do with it. 3 3 Q. And just to be clear, that litigation comptroller -- were people being deposed? 4 4 that you're referring to that is program-specific, A. Yes, I believe so. 5 are you referring to litigation involving the EDA 5 Q. And during the course of the audit, the 6 or litigation that is involving the applicants that 6 case actually went to trial. 7 7 are applying for the tax incentive program? A. Yes. 8 8 Q. So is it fair to say that during the A. It could be both. 9 9 MS. LEVICK: So we may want to follow entire audit, this was kind of top-of-mind to you, 10 up with you after this hearing to see if 10 that the litigation was top-of-mind, given the fact 11 there's litigation that we should be aware 11 that senior executives were being deposed and then 12 of. But that is all I have for today, and I 12 his case went to trial where you were a defendant? 13 13 want to thank you for your cooperation A. Yes, it was top-of-mind. 14 coming here today. 14 Q. So I just want to be really clear. Did 15 15 anyone put pressure on you in any way, shape or Does anyone else... 16 16 PROF. CHEN: Mr. Walden has some. form to withhold this, contrary to your wishes? 17 17 **EXAMINATION BY** A. Absolutely not. 18 18 MR. WALDEN: Q. Okay. 19 19 Q. I just want to ask you a couple of MR. WALDEN: All right, thank you. 2.0 2.0 questions. This was a complaint that raised PROF. CHEN: Thank you. I just want 21 21 allegations of at least potential fraud. We've to -- just to be clear --22 looked at your note or, notes. Would it be fair to 22 **EXAMINATION BY** 23 23 say that the litigation was actually ongoing during PROF. CHEN:

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the audit?

A.

That's correct.

Q. Apart from the Sucsuz litigation, are

you aware of any other litigation in which it was

Page 78 Page 79 1 1 Cole - examination/Chen Murray - examination/Winston 2 2 alleged -- alleged -- that there was any type of KERRIE-ANN MURRAY, having been 3 3 misconduct or malfeasance within EDA in the first duly sworn, was examined and testified 4 handling of one of these tax incentive 4 as follows: applications? 5 5 **EXAMINATION BY** 6 A. No, not that I'm aware of. 6 MS. WINSTON: 7 7 Q. And would it be fair to say that if Q. Good morning, Ms. Murray. 8 there had been such litigation, it would have come 8 A. Good morning. 9 9 Q. I want to thank you for taking the time to your attention? 10 10 A. During the timing yes. to be here today. Can you hear me? 11 11 Q. During the timing in which you served A. Yes. 12 in your capacity? 12 Q. We are aware that in April 2018, you 13 filed a complaint with the New York Division of 13 A. Yes. 14 14 Human Rights against your former employer. PROF. CHEN: Thank you, nothing We want to speak with you about your 15 15 further. 16 experience with that company and your allegations 16 MR. WALDEN: Thank you very much, related to employee payroll information in 17 17 Mr. Cole. 18 18 connection with the EDA Grow New Jersey program. (The witness was excused.) 19 19 PROF. CHEN: Next we have testimony of We're not here to draw conclusions about your case, 20 20 but we look forward to hearing your perspectives. Kerrie-Ann Murray, who will be examined by 21 21 One further note, as Mr. Walden Ms. Winston. 22 2.2 mentioned previously, it's still early in this (Continued on following page.) 23 23 investigation, so we want to be especially careful 2.4 24 to protect everyone's due process rights. And we 25 25 understand that your former employer disputes these Page 80 Page 81 1 1 Murray - examination/Winston Murray - examination/Winston 2 claims, so we ask that you share with us your 2 Q. What does that entail? 3 3 personal knowledge without identifying your former A. It is processing payroll for active 4 4 employer's name, without identifying your employees for the company that I'm employed by. 5 colleagues by name, and without saying what, if 5 Q. How long have you worked as a payroll 6 anything, you personally did as well, do you 6 manager? 7 7 understand? A. Over ten years. 8 8 Q. And are you familiar with the New A. I understand. 9 9 Q. You're not represented by counsel here Jersey Economic Development Authority, which I'll 10 today, correct? 10 refer to as the EDA? 11 11 A. Correct. A. Yes. 12 Q. Do you understand that you have a right 12 Q. How did you become familiar with the 13 to have counsel present? 13 EDA initially? 14 A. Correct. 14 A. While an employee at my former 15 15 Q. And you've been sworn in. You employer, once the grant was given or once the 16 understand that you're to tell the truth today? 16 go-ahead was actually given, the staff was pulled 17 17 into a private meeting to explain to us what are A. Yes. 18 Q. I'm going to ask you some questions 18 the next options to move the company to New 19 about your background and your past employment, 19 Jersey. And that was the first time. 20 20 again, please don't refer to any employees or any O. I just want to unpack that a little 21 21 individuals by name. bit. You referred to your former employer, and you 2.2 Ms. Murray, are you currently employed? 22 referred to a grant. Is that referring to an EDA 23 23 A. Yes. tax incentive program? 24 24 Q. What do you do for a living? A. Yes. 25 25 A. I'm a payroll manager. Q. And is it your testimony that your

Page 82 Page 83 1 1 Murray - examination/Winston Murray - examination/Winston 2 2 were employed there? former employer was signing for an EDA tax 3 3 incentive program? A. Yes. 4 A. Based on the implication that was 4 Q. Approximately when did it move to New 5 5 given to us, yes. Jersey, if you recall? 6 6 A. July of 2016. Q. And do you know what tax incentive 7 7 program it was applying for? Q. And why did it move to New Jersey? 8 8 A. At the time, we were told it was the A. It was a part of the EDA Grow New 9 9 Jersey grant that we were previously told about Grow New Jersey. 10 10 Q. Okay. When did you start working for prior, and that was what the first initial meeting 11 11 this company? was about, was to get everyone together and get 12 A. In 2015. 12 ourselves together for this move that was going to Q. In 2015? 13 13 take place mid-summer of 2016. 14 14 A. Yes. Q. And I want to unpack that a little bit. 15 Q. What was your role at that company? 15 Your testimony is that your former company moved to 16 16 A. Payroll manager. New Jersey in connection with the EDA Grow New 17 17 Jersey program, is that correct? Q. What kind of company was it? 18 18 A. Financial services. A. Yes. 19 Q. Where was the company based when you 19 Q. And in connection with that program, 20 20 did your former employer intend to move from New started? 21 21 York City to New Jersey? A. In New York City. 22 2.2 Q. And did it move to New Jersey A. No -- I'm sorry, could you say 23 23 again -ultimately? 2.4 2.4 Q. In connection with that program, did A. Yes. 25 25 Q. Did it move to New Jersey while you your company intend to move from New York City to Page 84 Page 85 1 1 Murray - examination/Winston Murray - examination/Winston 2 2 New Jersey? A. Approximately about one hundred to 125 3 3 A. Yes. more, additional positions. 4 4 O. And that was in order to obtain tax Q. A hundred to 125 --5 5 incentive --A. Approximately, yes. 6 A. Corrects. 6 Q. And did you have any role in helping to 7 7 Q. -- credits? Around, you referred, I hire for those hundred some-odd additional jobs? 8 8 think, to summer of 2016, when did you first hear A. No. 9 9 Q. Did you play any role at all in helping that the company was going to move to New Jersey? 10 10 A. In mid-May of 2016. the company to find employees to fill those 11 11 Q. And approximately how many employees additional jobs? 12 12 did the company have in New York in May or June A. Yes. 13 13 2016 when you learned it planned to move to New Q. What was that role? 14 14 A. To contact the New Jersey Department Jersey? 15 15 A. Approximately around eighty employees of Labor. 16 16 at the time. Q. And why were you told to contact the 17 17 Q. And was it the company's intent, to the New Jersey Department of Labor? 18 best of your knowledge, to move all of those eighty 18 A. At the time, because the move between 19 some-odd employees from New York to New Jersey? 19 the time that we were being told that we had to 20 20 A. Yes. move, and the time -- it was such a short span of 21 21 Q. And was the company planning to create time and the time that we had to move and the time 22 additional jobs as part of its move? 22 that we were given to create the positions, 23 23 A. Yes. previous, I'll say, job positions were not posted 24 24 Q. And do you know how many additional in New Jersey. 25 25 jobs the company was planning to create? So at the time, I can only say that

Page 87 Page 86 1 1 Murray - examination/Winston Murray - examination/Winston 2 2 contacting the Department of Labor would be -- the certain areas in New Jersey who were on welfare, 3 3 who were coming back from unemployment, who were easiest way to go is if they had employees who 4 were already unemployed, so it would be easier to 4 veterans, would also receive an additional tax 5 5 pick from that pool than it is to post positions credit as well. 6 6 Q. Okay. So it's your understanding that and then wait. 7 7 Q. Okay. And do you have an understanding in connection with the separate EDA program, in 8 8 that, you mentioned that your company was connection with certain Department of Labor 9 9 participating in the EDA's Grow New Jersey program. programs, your former employer was hiring employees 10 10 Was your company also intending to participate in and through that hiring would get some kind of 11 11 any additional programs administered by the DOL? reimbursement for the employees' salaries, correct? 12 12 A. Correct. A. Yes. 13 13 Q. And do you know anything about that Q. And just to be clear, I understand your 14 14 particular DOL program? testimony that your former employer participated in 15 A. Yes. 15 separate programs relating to -- administered by 16 Q. Can you explain what that particular 16 the EDA and being administered by the DOL. I'm 17 17 going to focus primarily on the Grow New Jersey EDA program was? 18 18 A. Subsequently once we got to New programs. 19 19 Jersey, there was an additional program from A. Okay. 2.0 20 Q. Did the people you were hiring the -- through the Department of Labor where the 21 21 company was reimbursed half of the hourly salary generally have experience in the company's 22 22 for each hourly employee that was hired, on top of industry, in the financial services industry? 23 another incentive which was the Welfare-to-Work 23 A. No. 24 2.4 program tax incentive where, if the company hired Q. Was the company ultimately able to hire 25 25 the necessary number of employees to receive the from a particular pool of employees who lived in Page 88 Page 89 1 Murray - examination/Winston 1 Murray - examination/Winston 2 tax credits under Grow New Jersey? 2 company or were new positions made for them? 3 3 A. Yes. A. New positions were made. 4 4 Q. And that was the hundred some-odd O. And what was the role of this, these 5 5 employees, you needed to hire those to receive the new programs, was it a single department? 6 credits under Grow New Jersey? 6 A. It was a single department. 7 7 What was the department? A. Correct. 8 8 Q. Do you know whether there was a The department's name, or what was A. 9 9 deadline for the company to hire those employees? the --10 10 A. I believe so, yes. What was the purpose of the department? Q. 11 11 Q. And did the company meet that deadline, A. So the purpose of the department was 12 12 to make phone calls to potential loan borrowers. to your knowledge? 13 13 A. Yes. Q. And were you surprised when the company 14 Q. So the company hired a hundred some-odd 14 created this department? 15 15 employees? A. Yes. 16 16 A. Yes. O. Why? 17 17 Q. And did your company ultimately move to A. Because it wasn't a role or --18 New Jersey? 18 positions that the company previously used. The company does subprime lending, so you would have 19 19 A. Yes. 20 2.0 Q. Do you know when that was? to be very experienced in sales, experienced in 21 selling, experienced in -- in getting borrowers to 21 A. July 2016. 22 Q. July 2016? 22 actually borrow money at those -- at the high 23 23 A. Yes. percentage rate.

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Q. And were the new employees that were

hired, hired into preexisting positions at the

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Q. And what kind of experience generally

did these new employees that were hired have?

Page 90 Page 91 1 Murray - examination/Winston 1 Murray - examination/Winston 2 2 Retail, fast food experience, not grant? 3 3 sales. A. Yes. 4 Q. Okay. And were the new hires paid 4 Q. And how did you know that these new 5 5 hourly or were they paid a salary? people were being hired in connection with the EDA 6 A. Hourly. 6 tax credit program? 7 7 Q. What was their average pay? A. Because when staff submitted the 8 8 A. Ten dollars per hour. actual Grow New Jersey grant spreadsheet, which 9 Q. And some of that was reimbursed by the 9 that was the name at the top of the spreadsheet, 10 10 Department of Labor? that was the subsequent number that we were told 11 11 A. Correct. had to be there. 12 Q. You testified that the company made 12 Q. Okay. So I just want to unpack that a 13 approximately a hundred or 120 additional new hires 13 little bit as well. You just referred to a 14 14 initially. Were any additional new hires made spreadsheet. Can you tell me what the spreadsheet 15 throughout later in 2016? 15 is that you're referring to? 16 A. Um -- yes. 16 A. So monthly, an Excel spreadsheet that 17 17 O. What was that? could not be manipulated at all, which contained 18 18 payroll and data of employees' names, their A. As hires came and left, to the best of 19 my knowledge, staff was told that we had to move 19 departments, their salary earned for that month, 2.0 20 their annual salary, hours worked, had to be in an average number of 225 employees. So there 21 21 was a, if I can use the word, a rolling hire that submitted. And at the top of that spreadsheet it 22 22 always said, "Grow New Jersey." kept, so we kept the ball rolling. 23 Q. Okay. And you said you -- the company 23 Q. So just to make that clear, on a 24 2.4 had to maintain an average number of 225 employees. monthly basis, staff of this company filled out a 25 25 Was that in order to obtain the Grow New Jersey spreadsheet, the header of which was, "Grow New Page 92 Page 93 1 Murray - examination/Winston 1 Murray - examination/Winston 2 Jersey," and that spreadsheet was filled out with 2 to the employee's manager to find out why this 3 3 employee data? employee did not work the required hours, and if 4 4 A. Correct. the employee did not -- if the manager didn't have 5 5 O. And what data did that include? any rhyme or actual reason as to why, staff was 6 A. It included employees' names, 6 instructed to backfill those hours with what 7 7 employees' departments, their work location, payroll people say, "PTO time," which is paid time 8 8 annual salaries, their -off, which is either sick or vacation or personal 9 9 O. Hours worked? hours. 1.0 10 A. -- and hours worked. Q. So in other words, if the required 11 11 minimum number of hours wasn't met, staff was Q. And staff submitted that internally to 12 management? 12 instructed to essentially up those hours using paid 13 13 A. Correct. time off? 14 Q. Okay. And in terms of hours worked, to 14 A. Correct. 15 the best of your knowledge, were employees required 15 Q. And separate from that paid time off 16 to work a certain number of hours per period? 16 issue, at any point, did management give staff 17 A. Correct. 17 other directives regarding current or former 18 Q. Was there ever a time when staff was 18 employees, or have to document pay or employment to 19 filling out the EDA Grow New Jersey spreadsheet you 19 meet the EDA's requirements? 20 referred to, and one or more employees didn't meet 2.0 A. Yes. 21 the minimum hours requirement for that period? 21 Q. Can you tell me a little bit about 22 A. Yes. 22 that? 23 Q. And in those instances, what did the 23 A. So there was one particular case where 24 staff do? 24 an employee -- employment was terminated while the 25 A. The staff was instructed to reach out 25 office was still in New York City. However, to

Page 94 Page 95 1 1 Murray - examination/Winston Murray - examination/Winston 2 2 meet the Grow New Jersey head count, that all of the new hires were terminated? 3 3 employee's termination was subsequently pulled all A. Correct. 4 the way across into 2016 and the severance pay was 4 Q. The entire group? 5 5 pulled all the way out until that end of 2016, A. Yes. 6 once the final spreadsheet staff submitted the 6 Q. About how many people were terminated? 7 7 final spreadsheet for the Grow New Jersey grant. A. At the time, there were approximately, 8 8 Then the employee was -- then removed about 80 of them were -- when I say "them," I 9 9 from all HR functions and removed from the company mean -- because they were grouped into one 10 records. 10 particular department, so, yes. 11 11 Q. So just to clarify, when you say Q. It's easier to say that they were there 12 "pulled across 2016," do you mean that there was a 12 one day and gone the next, eventually? 13 terminated employee remained on payroll records 13 A. Yes. 14 14 because severance was staged out, is that what you Q. And they were terminated all at once, 15 mean by "pulled across"? 15 is that right? 16 A. Yes. 16 A. Yes. 17 17 Q. Okay. Did the new, the cold calling Q. Do you know why they were terminated? 18 18 group, the sales group that you referred to that A. No. 19 was created in 2016, continue to be employed at the 19 Were any new employees hired into the 2.0 20 company throughout 2017? group once those employees firing took place in 21 A. No. 21 around January 2017? 22 22 Q. Why not? No, those positions were eliminated. 23 A. They were terminated in early January 23 Were eliminated? Q. 2.4 of 2017. 2.4 A. Yes. 25 25 Q. And when you say they were terminated, Q. And to your knowledge, did the company Page 96 Page 97 1 Murray - examination/Winston 1 Murray - examination/Chen 2 2 continue throughout the year to fill out the Grow **EXAMINATION BY** 3 3 New Jersey spreadsheets? PROF. CHEN: 4 4 A. For maybe one or two months after Q. When you made reference to the 5 5 Department of Labor, you were referring to the New that. 6 6 Q. And then it stopped? Jersey State Department of Labor --7 7 A. Correct. A. Yes. 8 Q. And are you aware of whether the Q. -- not The Federal Department of Labor. 9 9 company ultimately received tax incentive credit A. That's correct. 10 10 through the Grow New Jersey program and what they PROF. CHEN: All right, thank you. 11 11 did with it? MS. WINSTON: Thank you very much, 12 12 A. So staff was told, once staff inquired Ms. Murray. 13 13 as to why we no longer needed to keep hiring (The witness was excused.) 14 employees, keep the relationship open with the New 14 PROF. CHEN: So next, we'll hear from 15 15 Jersey Department of Labor, or to complete the Mr. John Boyd. 16 16 Grow New Jersey spreadsheet, we were told that the JOHN BOYD, having been first duly 17 17 tax credit was sold to another company. sworn, was examined and testified as 18 Q. And you don't work at this company any 18 follows: **EXAMINATION BY** 19 19 longer, is that correct? 20 20 A. No. MR. BORCHARDT: 21 MS. WINSTON: That's all I have for 21 Q. Good morning. 2.2 today. Thank you very much for your time. 22 A. Good morning. 23 23 I'll turn it over to --Q. Could you state and spell your name for 24 24 PROF. CHEN: In may not be necessary, the record, please? 25 25 I guess, because the record is clear. A. John Boyd.

Page 99 Page 98 1 1 Boyd - examination/Borchardt Boyd - examination/Borchardt 2 2 Q. Mr. Boyd, we have never met before A. We counsel major U.S. and overseas 3 3 face-to-face but we have spoken before on the corporations where to locate their facilities 4 phone, is that right? 4 throughout America. Clients of ours include 5 5 A. Yes. Boeing, Pepsico, JPMorgan Chase --6 Q. Well, it's nice to see you now. Thank 6 Q. Is that referred to as corporate site 7 7 you for being here, for testifying. Just so you selection? 8 know, my questions will be the same questions, or 8 A. Corporate site selection, yes. 9 9 very similar to what I've asked you before, so you Q. Help us understand, why is corporate 10 shouldn't expect any surprises. Where do you work, 10 site selection important? 11 11 Mr. Boyd? A. Corporate site selection is the 12 A. The Boyd Company. 12 process of studying multiple locations and 13 Q. And what is your title at The Boyd 13 choosing the optimum location for a company to put 14 Company? 14 in a facility, one of the most significant 15 A. Principal. 15 decisions a company will make. It's a very long, 16 16 Q. How long have you been at The Boyd exhaustive process. 17 17 Company? Q. So why do companies hire corporate site 18 18 selection consultants like yourself? A. I joined the firm 2002, after college, 19 19 but I grew up with the business. My dad founded A. Three major reasons. The first reason 20 the firm back in 1975. My earliest experiences in 20 a company would hire a consultant is independence. 21 life were traveling the country, related to 21 A good consultant is not influenced by any type of 22 22 projects that our firms carried out. downstream commission interest that is associated 23 Q. You say you grew up in the business. I 23 with a particular real estate site. They are also 24 24 want to make sure we understand, what is The Boyd not influenced by any type of internal bias that 25 25 Company's business? may exist within a company. Another major reason Page 101 Page 100 1 Boyd - examination/Borchardt 1 Boyd - examination/Borchardt 2 is specialization. The site selection process is 2 in corporate relocation projects of that size? And 3 3 a rare process to go through for a corporation. A to make sure the record is clear, by "that size," I 4 4 good consultant is constantly monitoring business mean two hundred to four hundred. 5 5 climate factors that are critical to a company's A. Yes. 6 6 staff and operations. And lastly, Q. How many times have you worked on 7 7 confidentiality. Corporations and businesses want projects of that size? 8 8 the site selection process to be confidential A. Dozens of times. 9 9 until a final decision is made. Q. So today when I ask you questions about 10 10 how site selection works, you'll understand that Q. And you may have already mentioned 11 11 this. But in case you didn't, what kinds of we're talking about moves of that size, several 12 hundred employee offices, okay? 12 companies does The Boyd Company work with? 13 13 A. Clients of ours include Boeing, Pratt A. Yes. 14 14 Q. All right. So is it fair to say that & Whitney, PNC Bank, TD Bank. Most of our work is for companies, the site selection decision, picking 15 15 with Fortune 500 to Fortune 100 companies. But we 16 16 also service smaller companies as well. a state, a region, a locality, a particular 17 17 Q. Okay. So large companies, building is a complex question? 18 18 A. Yes. and forgive the obvious observation, but I'm sure 19 19 Q. So what kind of process do you use to it's different to relocate a ten-person office than 20 help companies select the ideal relocation site? 2.0 it is to relocate a ten-thousand-person office, 21 21 right? A. Site selection is both a science and 22 22 an art. The science is the quantitative analysis, A. Yes.

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Q. So I want to ask you today about the

middle range, if you would, offices of two hundred

to four hundred employees. Do you have experience

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measuring business costs and taxes in one market

versus another. The qualitative analysis has to

do with measuring things like transportation

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Boyd - examination/Borchardt assets, and specific talent assets that a particular region has. The acronym that we use for office projects is TALIO, and T is for talent, A is for access to the market, with transportation hubs, the presence of a major gateway or national airport. L is for lifestyle. Companies want to be in locations that are attractive for retaining and recruiting workforce. I is for incentives. Incentives are an important and high-profile part of the site selection process today.

And lastly, operating costs, okay? Operating costs can vary significantly by geography. Labor costs in south Florida, for example, could be 20 percent less than in Manhattan.

- Q. So there are a lot of factors you're looking at, is that fair?
 - A. Yes.

2.0

today.

- Q. So from the beginning of the process to the end, from when a company decides it's thinking about moving to when they ultimately select the location it will move to, approximately how long does that take?
 - A. Typically six months to a year.

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- Q. And who at the company is typically involved?
- A. The accounting department, the legal department, the HR department plays a very important role in the site selection possess, and increasingly, the communications department. Branding has become a big part of relocation decisions today.
- Q. So if you will, paint a picture for us for what the process looks like from beginning to end. Are there meetings, reports, site visits, what do you do?
- A. Every project is different. Typically, the project begins with a meeting with various members of the company. Again, the HR could also be in the room, the legal department is typically in the room, the accounting function in the room. And we plug the objectives on the move; what are the key drivers, are there any initial geographic preferences that we should take a look at

Then we begin doing our work, we prepare a analytical document. That documents operating costs and taxes, and all of the markets

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Boyd - examination/Borchardt that we're serving. And then we begin the process of elimination; and a big part of that process of elimination is developing a short list, and then we start doing field investigations. Field investigations practically are an essential part of any competent, diligent site selection process

- Q. You said field investigation, is that the same as a site visit?
 - A. Site visit, yes.
- Q. How common are site visits, are they sometimes a part of the process, always part of the process?
 - A. They are always a part of the process.
- Q. Okay. In one project, just roundabout figure, how often would you go on a site visit?
- A. Typically the top three or five locations receive at least three site visits from our firm. Then the client will do site visits, and will meet with many of the same individuals that we meet with HR directors in the labor market, to give a sense of real-time labor market factors like turnover rates, prevailing wage rates.

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We'll meet with leaders in the real
estate community, get a sense of residential
housing options for the workforce; and of course,
the commercial industry, to see what type of sites
exist for the company. I will also meet with
academic officials and elected officials and other
important people in the marketplace assessing the
overall tenor of the market, is it pro-business,
is it pro-development.

- Q. I want to make sure I understand. It sounds like site visits are often to a region. Is the site visit also to a particular piece of real estate considering whether this is the office we want?
- A. That's really the last piece of the puzzle where, once a company is sold on a specific region, it becomes about finding the right site at that region. We may give special preference to an area that falls in an opportunity zone, for example. And then of course, this part of process, the company's real estate folks begin to gradually take over, to look to us to make some initial recommendations based upon real estate, and we're happy to do that.

Page 106 Page 107 1 Boyd - examination/Borchardt 1 Boyd - examination/Borchardt 2 2 Q. Okay. So it sounds like during this Q. The really small startup companies of 3 3 process there are meetings at the company to course might do some things differently, but for a 4 discuss the sites. 4 move of this size, this is what you can expect. 5 5 A. Yes. A. Yes. 6 Q. Okay. Reports are being drawn up? 6 Q. So if the Task Force wants to know 7 7 A. Yes. whether a company is seriously relocating to a site 8 8 Q. Thank you. So basically, your that the company says it's thinking about, it 9 testimony sounds like a lot of work and analysis 9 sounds like the company should be able to produce a 10 10 goes into picking the best location, is that a fair lot of documentation of its deliberations. Do you 11 11 generalization? agree with that statement? 12 A. Yes. 12 A. I agree with that. 13 13 O. And it sounds like a lot of Q. Okay. If we request the sort of 14 14 evidence from a company but the company can't documentation is generated during the site 15 selection process; memos, e-mail, reports, is that 15 produce it, does that suggest that maybe the 16 16 company was never seriously considering the site? fair? 17 17 A. Yes. A. That's accurate. I would also expect 18 the company to be able to produce receipts related 18 Q. Let me ask you a few hypotheticals. 19 to on-site travel visits. 19 Before I do that, I want to make sure this is 2.0 20 Q. And I want to make sure this is clear, clear. 21 21 the testimony you're giving now is about office You have not examined any of the 22 22 evidence that the Task Force is looking at related sizes of two to four hundred employees. For moves 23 23 to specific companies, right? of that sort, you would expect this sort of 24 24 A. That's correct. process. 25 25 A. Yes. Q. So the questions I'm going to ask you Page 108 Page 109 1 Boyd - examination/Borchardt 1 Boyd - examination/Borchardt 2 and the answers you're going to provide, a lot of 2 Q. So if a company only has an offer valid 3 3 them are about specific companies, right? for let's say a week or two, does that create a 4 4 question to your mind about whether the company is A. Yes. 5 5 Q. To get something else out of the way, seriously considering the site? 6 you're not a real estate broker but part of your 6 A. Yes. 7 7 work is helping companies find real estate, Q. Thank you. Let me ask about a 8 8 different issue. You help companies find space in correct? 9 9 A. Yes. office towers, specifically, right? 10 10 Q. So when you find a potential office A. Yes. 11 11 location to consider for relocation, if the company Q. And oftentimes companies are large 12 12 enough that they have to spread across multiple is interested in that property, one option the 13 company has is to negotiate for an extended offer 13 floors of an office building, correct? 14 period so an offer will stay open and the company 14 A. Yes. 15 15 has time to consider whether it wants the site, is Q. When companies do spread across 16 16 that correct? multiple floors, I imagine they usually want the 17 17 A. Yes. floors to be contiguous, for example, 2, 3, 4, 5, 18 18 O. And a company can negotiate to keep an is that correct? offer open for months, is that correct? A. They always want contiguous workspace. 19 19 20 2.0 Q. Have you ever had an experience where a A. Yes. 21 21 Q. If a company is serious about client has wanted noncontiguous floors such as 3, 7 22 relocating to a particular site, it may well 22 and 14? 23 23 negotiate for the sort of extended offer period, A. No. 24 24 correct? Q. Would you ever recommend to your client 25 25 A. Yes. that they adopt non-contiguous floors for their

Page 110 Page 111 1 1 Boyd - examination/Borchardt Boyd - examination/Chen 2 2 office configuration? Q. And you can only get the property if 3 3 A. Barring some natural disaster the other company turns it down first, is that 4 response, the answer is no. 4 right? 5 5 Q. So if a company said that it seriously A. Yes. 6 considered a move to floors 3, 7 and 14, would that 6 Q. So if you're looking at a property and 7 7 raise an eyebrow for you? a different company has the right of first refusal 8 8 on it, would you ever advise one of your clients A. Yes. 9 9 that they should consider that property --Q. Let me ask you about a different issue. 10 Let's say you're looking for a property for one of 10 A. That wouldn't seem to be an attractive 11 11 your clients, and the real estate broker tells you option. 12 that a different company has a right of first 12 If a company said that it was 13 refusal on the property. I want to make sure we 13 considering a property that a different company had 14 14 understand what that means. What is a right of a right of first refusal on, would that strike you 15 first refusal? 15 as questionable? 16 16 A. A right of first refusal is when a A. It would, yes. 17 17 landlord has an agreement with a specific company MR. BORCHARDT: Thank very much. 18 18 to give them the first shot at buying or leasing Professor Chen, do you have any 19 office space before they market or try to get an 19 questions? 20 20 additional tenant for the space. **EXAMINATION BY** 21 21 PROF. CHEN: Q. So if you're looking at a property and 22 22 a different company has a right of first refusal on Q. Have you ever had a client of your own, 23 it, you are behind them in line, so to speak, is 23 to the best of your recollection, who applied for a 24 that right? 24 tax incentive to move to New Jersey over the years? 25 25 A. Yes. A. We requested our fees from New Jersey Page 112 Page 113 1 1 Boyd - examination/Chen 2 2 over the years but there are specific firms that AFTERNOON SESSION 3 3 handle, negotiate -- we do not do that. (1:03 p.m.) 4 4 PROF. CHEN: Thanks. PROF. CHEN: Now, possibly, the 5 5 MR. BORCHARDT: That's it, Mr. Boyd. delights of Newark have detained some of the 6 6 audience and the morning spectators, but I Thank you very much. I think your testimony 7 7 is going to be really useful context for think we should proceed on time. Our next 8 8 some other testimony I expect we'll hear witness is Mr. David Lawyer. Mr. Lawyer, 9 9 today. Thank you. could you stand up, please, and raise your 10 10 hand. THE WITNESS: Thank you. 11 11 (The witness was excused.) DAVID LAWYER, having been first duly 12 sworn, was examined and testified as 12 PROF. CHEN: There would be a good 13 13 time to have our lunch break. For those who follows: 14 14 **EXAMINATION BY** are not from Newark, there are lots of nice 15 15 places to have lunch directly in the MR. WALDEN: 16 environs of the law school building and we 16 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Lawyer, how are 17 17 will reconvene at one p.m. you? 18 18 (Luncheon recess: 12:12 p.m.) A. Very well. 19 19 Q. I have to apologize to you before we 20 2.0 begin. I didn't realize that step down means the 21 21 chair doesn't move that well. Some of your 22 22 testimony, as you know, we're going to be doing 23 23 slides, so I hope you can see it. Why don't you 24 24 just say and spell your name for the record. 25 25 A. David Lawyer.

Page 114 Page 115 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 Q. Common spelling? My background is in commercial lending 3 3 A. Yes, common spelling. Last name and credit analysis at various financial 4 L-a-w-y-e-r. 4 institutions, and I started working an the EDA in 5 5 2006 as a senior credit underwriter. I understand Q. And you are not a lawyer? 6 A. No, I'm not a lawyer. 6 that the purpose of today's hearing is to discuss 7 7 Q. Where do you work? the Task Force review of the Grow New Jersey tax 8 8 A. I work at the New Jersey Economic incentive program. 9 9 Development Authority. While my personal involvement with the 10 10 Q. Are you here voluntarily? program began in 2017, in preparation for today's 11 11 A. Yes, I am. hearing I have reviewed a number of project files 12 Q. Have you been fully cooperative with 12 from the beginning of the program to today. I 13 13 have also spoken with underwriters and business the Task Force? 14 14 development officers and community development A. Yes. 15 Q. And you and I have met before? 15 officers whom I will refer to as BDOs and CDOs, to 16 16 better understand their involvement in certain of A. Yes, we have. 17 17 these projects. Q. Just thank you very much for all your 18 18 cooperation in this. Was there an introductory On behalf of the EDA. I would like to 19 19 statement that you wanted to read? thank the Task Force for its work, and to note 20 A. I do, yes. So thank you, Mr. Walden. 20 that we welcome this opportunity to improve our 21 21 Again, my name is David Lawyer and I am the EDA's administration of the Grow program. I would also 22 22 like to note that the EDA is constantly evolving. managing director of underwriting. I have been in 23 this position since May of 2017, prior to which I 23 We have in the past couple of years significantly 24 24 had worked as the director of credit incentives improved our oversight of the tax incentive 25 25 programs we manage. Improvements include updating and real estate underwriting. Page 117 Page 116 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 the documentation and other requirements we seek term. 3 3 from program applicants as well as reviewing and A. All right, the most general 4 4 updating program files after an application has description that I can offer is an experienced 5 5 already been approved. individual having a finance or accounting 6 We understand, however, that we need to 6 background and specific technical skills who 7 7 further improve to better serve the taxpayers of completes a detailed analysis, understands the 8 8 the State of New Jersey. To that end, we welcome logic, and tests the validity of an application 9 9 comments or recommendations from the Task Force and all supporting data related to a request for 10 10 financial assistance. and I hope that my testimony today will aid in

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formulating such recommendations. Thank you.

Q. I'm sure we will. You've been very helpful so far, Mr. Lawyer, but can I make one suggestion to you, which is just to hold the mike toward your mouth so that -- not that you can't be heard, but it will be easier. Okay.

Now, during your opening statement, which I thank you for, you used a term that I just want to make sure that all of our listeners are familiar with. The term was "underwriting" or "underwriter."

A. Yes.

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Q. Could you please describe what that means? I know that it's used in many different contexts but give us a general understanding of the

- Q. Okay, that was clear. So in other words, in a sense, an underwriter scrubs, dives and analyzes to make sure whatever he or she is looking at is what it purports to be.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Now, just to frame your testimony, I want to make sure everyone understands, essentially you're testifying here as kind of a corporate witness in the sense that you're not testifying about what you personally did during the period of time from 2013 to 2017, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And so in preparation for your testimony today, you said before you reviewed a whole bunch of files, right?

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1 Lawyer - examination/Walden

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A. Yes.

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- Q. And were they files that we asked to you review?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And we've had discussions about your findings and the facts in our prior interactions.
 - A. Yes, we did.
- Q. And you understand that what I'm really asking you about today from the perspective of an EDA's expert witness is to help us understand how the program was being administered specifically by the underwriting department in the period between 2013 and 2017.
 - A. I understand.
- Q. Okay, good. So at a high level, from the underwriter's perspective, when he or she gets a file, give us a very brief description of what's happened with an application before. And we're going to use a slide that we worked on together, and note for the record that this is Task Force exhibit, somebody help me here? Six. Six now. There's a 6 and 6A.

REC'D (Task Force Exhibit 6A, slide re underwriting and approval process, received

Lawyer - examination/Walden in evidence, as of this date.)

- Q. So why don't you walk through, I want you to start with the process that begins before the underwriter and then we'll go from there.
- A. Absolutely. And so what we have behind me is what I would classify as a pretty good visual illustration of what departments within the EDA touches Grow applications, from initial application, approval, board approval and post-closing processes or post-approval processes, all Grow applications that begin within our business development team. A business development officer, which again, I would refer to as a BDO, is the primary point of contact in the beginning of the application process.

In many instances, an officer from the state's Business Action Center may have been in contact with the Grow applicant prior to our BDO getting the ball. Should that be the case, both individuals, they will work together towards the completion of a Grow application. It is the BDO's responsibility to meet with the applicant and understand the project, confirm that the Grow project is in fact the appropriate method to

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Lawyer - examination/Walden assist the business, and that the scope of the project agrees with the eligibility criteria that's spelled out in the law.

The BDO's method to understand the project prior to application includes meeting the applicant at the New Jersey site; if within a reasonable driving distance, a site visit to the out-of-state location, and reviewing all available documentation that pertains to the project.

Ultimately, a complete package consisting of an executed Grow application, application fee, and all required documentation is signed off by the business development department and submitted to my department, underwriting, to commence the analysis.

And so that takes us to the second item, "Underwriting." And so the complete application package is then assigned to an underwriter.

And this individual will live with the application throughout the entire underwriting process. The BDO remains actively engaged and collectively we refer to the two as the deal team.

Q. I'm sorry, did you say the deal team?

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A. Deal team. Yes. Underwriting then completes a financial review of the project. This includes the completion of a net benefit analysis, the award calculation, financial feasibility analysis, and cost/benefit analysis.

Finally, the underwriter completes what is called a project summary, which essentially pulls all the analysis together in a public document that is submitted to the EDA board for approval. And then we have the board approval, and then the last step which is not up there, but it's well to the right of board approval, is post-approval.

Once the project has been approved, what we refer to as an approval letter that outlines the details of the approval is drafted by a separate closing department at the EDA, signed off by the state's deputy Attorney General's office, which I will refer to as the D.A.G., or an A.G., reviewed by EDA staff, signed by me, and then sent to the applicant for execution.

Our post-closing department ensures the return receipt of that approval letter, and they live with the project through our final

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Lawyer - examination/Walden certification and payment of the award over time. And so that takes us to the bottom half of your chart there which provides a good linear illustration of the internal meetings that take place leading up to the EDA board, and --

- Q. So in other words, that's the journey on top, and the bottom is how you get there.
 - A. Correct.

- Q. Go ahead, please describe --
- A. You got it. So the first meeting is our incentive pipeline. At our incentive pipeline meeting, all Grow applications preapproval are discussed. Such applications include those that are anticipated to be received by BDO, those applications that have been received and are currently being processed by BDO, and those which have been deemed complete and have been submitted to underwriting for analysis.

Each officer assigned to their respective applications will discuss certain particulars about the project such as what it entails, the amount requested, any outstanding items and any significant issues including legal matters.

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Lawyer - examination/Walden
Present at incentives pipeline includes
various levels of EDA staff, including senior
management, and a member from the A.G.'s office.
Should there be any questions regarding how a
certain aspect of the application lines up with
the law, EDA staff defers to our A.G. for their
opinion, and that is the closed-door meeting.

The next step of the process is what we call incentive project review. And the purpose of this closed-door meeting is to discuss the draft analyses and attachments that those Grow applications currently in the underwriting department, and we feel we have merit to be heard at the upcoming board meeting.

Equally as important is an opportunity to ensure that EDA staff and senior management were all on the same page and agree that the projects discussed are ready to proceed to the next board.

Materials distributed to the participants in review, to review in advance of this meeting, include drafts of the project summary, our confidential analysis, net benefit analysis, cost/benefit analysis, there's a

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Lawyer - examination/Walden confidential CBA verification worksheet which was a process improvement, and a Grow award calculation.

Present at incentives project review are the same participants at our pipeline meeting including a member from the A.G.'s office.

The next step is our incentive committee, and the purpose of this meeting is to present the same analyses and related attachments discussed at the prior incentive project review to the members of the incentive committee. Present at this meeting are the same participants at project review, including a member from the A.G.'s office and certain members of the EDA board who were selected and agreed to be part of this committee.

Unlike project review, the underwriting analyses and attachments at this point are in substantially final form. This is a closed-door meeting to which the committee members, they have the opportunity to ask any questions about any of the projects and express concerns surrounding the same.

And then finally we have the EDA board.

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Lawyer - examination/Walden
And finally, at the EDA board, are items
recommended for approval by EDA staff and the
incentive committee, are considered by the members
of the board. The board is a public setting,
traditionally at EDA's office. All application
materials provided to the incentive committee are
also provided to the board members in advance of
the meeting to review in support of their
respective votes. And at every EDA board meeting
a member from the state's A.G. office is present.

Q. Thank you, that was a mouthful. It's quite a process, thank you very much. I just want to ask you about three things that I think you talked about, and I'd like to you just describe it as simply as you can, so that even a layperson can understand.

Can you just explain what a net benefit analysis means?

A. Right. So the net benefit analysis is essentially -- it is an estimate of the incremental tax revenue the state will receive that will result from a specific type of project located in a certain part of the state that will also result in employment activity. And so it

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Lawyer - examination/Walden takes into consideration revenues that the state was not realizing before that is going to result from this new capital investment, business activity related from that capital investment, as well as new employment and tax revenues generated from new employees at that location.

- Q. So in other words, if I could make it even more simple, is it just a way to measure how good or not a deal is for the state?
 - A. Yes, that is one way to say it, yes.
- Q. And then you also mentioned something called a cost/benefit analysis.
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. If I can lead you just in the interests of time, is that basically a way to determine whether or not the out-of-state location is more or less expensive than the Camden alternative?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Or the alternative in any locality in Jersey.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. There's one document I want to make sure that I cover with you, to figure out where along that stage this is generated. Is there

Lawyer - examination/Walden something called a confidential memo of analysis?

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- A. Yes.
- Q. What is that?
- A. So that -- that analysis has a lot of the same information that's on the project summary. But there, we also get into the financial feasibility of the project. And so that involves not a deep dive, but we review certain aspects of the financial statements of the applicant. And so that illustrates a number of areas of the financial statements, certain aspects of it, certain financial ratios; and so since we're pulling that information which likely could be a private company, we really don't want that to be on a public document. We do not want confidential information to be on a public document.
- Q. But is that confidential memo of analysis something that goes to the board as part of the board package?
- A. I believe the board members received that, but it is not posted on our website as the public agenda.
 - Q. Is the information that is contained in

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Lawyer - examination/Walden that confidential memo of analysis based on information provided by applicants and verified by the underwriters and others?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And is the information that's in those confidential memos of analysis, it's supposed to be truthful.
 - A. Absolutely.
- Q. And is it fair to say that part of the job of the underwriter is to verify that the information contained in the applications is confirmed, true, and that there are no red flags?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And so in circumstances where information in the application seems questionable or suspicious, what is the underwriter's role?
 - A. They will question it.
 - Q. And then to what end?
- A. Until they receive a satisfactory response.
- Q. And if in the course of work, an underwriter, again during this period from 2013 to 2017, could not satisfy him or herself of an important piece of information, what would

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Lawyer - examination/Walden generally happen in those circumstances?

- A. Well, it may begin with a phone call or an e-mail to call out the item that the underwriter has an issue with. And then an explanation may be provided, which may result in the request of additional information to review in support of the response that was provided.
- Q. I apologize. My question was probably not crisp enough, so let me try it again.

Once the questions are asked and once the applicant provides whatever the applicant has, if at that point the underwriter still has a question or concern that's not resolved internally, can you just help us understand what happens next? What's the underwriter supposed to do if actually he can't or she can't get the question resolved to their satisfaction?

A. I think it really depends on what that issue is. If it's an issue that can impair the eligibility of the project, then that could lead us down a different path to where the project is no longer eligible. If it's a question that we feel should be answered, that may lead to the project being held for a period of time until we

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Lawyer - examination/Walden get resolution.

It may be a question that we feel is so important because it impacts the eligibility, but really for us to understand the project, and to be consistent with other, similar projects that we have reviewed in the past, again, that project may be held until we receive an acceptable response.

Q. Okay. So I'm going to ask you a little bit about your observations about the training program at the EDA; but before I do, I just want to make sure I'm past this.

When an underwriter gets the file, obviously the Internet is a ready source of information that is available to an underwriter or to a BDO. Is that part of the process for the underwriter to do some level of diligence, of using resources like the Internet?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And on the Internet, is it fair to say for example, you might be able to find prior statements that the applicant made about their intent to either stay in or leave New Jersey?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. And you might find information about

Lawyer - examination/Walden prior lawsuits that might be relevant to some of the questions about litigation in the application.

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- A. Yes.
- Q. And you might find information that bears on whether or not the company is suitable from a business integrity perspective --
 - A. Correct.
- Q. -- for example, you might find regulatory violations.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And do underwriters, again, you're answering based on your understanding of the way the process works from 2013 to 2017, do underwriters generally look for those matters?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Now, again, I'm going to ask you about this same period of time from 2013 to 2017. Are you aware of whether or not in that period of time, there was ever a formal training process within the EDA to help underwriters actually understand all the program requirements?
 - A. Not that I know of.
- Q. Was there any sort of formal class where a lawyer came in, for example, and said,

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Lawyer - examination/Walden "Here's what the statute requires"?

- A. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q. Is there any sort of, maybe, online training that happens from time to time where underwriters get updated on new areas of concern or places where people are consistently experiencing problems?
 - A. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q. So again, just so we're clear, no formal training at all?
 - A. No.
- Q. Do you think -- we talked about recommendations before -- do you think that it would be a better process and make it easier on underwriters if there actually was a formal training program?
 - A. I can see value in that, yes.
- Q. And would there also be value in yearly recertification to explain developments in the program, new regulations and amendments and those sort of compliance refreshers?
- A. I see the value in ongoing training, but as far as a specific certification --
 - Q. I'm sorry, I didn't mean certification

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Lawyer - examination/Walden in that way. I just mean an ongoing training on a yearly basis so if there are any changes in the law or the regulations, the underwriters actually get some formal process to understand.

- A. I see value.
- Q. And to ask questions, for example.
- A. Yes.
- Q. So let me just ask you a question, make sure that we understand.

At some point when you started in May of '17, you did something to help familiarize yourself, given the fact that there wasn't formal training program even then.

- A. Correct.
- Q. What did you do so that you were familiar with the Grow program?
- A. Right. So the very first thing I did was to review, study and understand as best I can the act and the rules. From there, you really just need to immerse yourself into the process, which -- which actually was an existing process at the EDA for our loan programs.

And so when the underwriting department took over the approval process for Grow

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Lawyer - examination/Walden applications, it would make complete logical sense to follow that same process as well.

Q. Okay. Please, go ahead.

2.0

A. All right. So I took it upon myself to make sure that on almost a daily basis I would sit with an underwriter to discuss what projects they were working, what were their observations, what works, what does not work, are there any areas that they felt may be improved. That was my way to understand what was the existing process.

I made it clear to everyone in the earlier parts of the 2017, and May of 2017, that my intent isn't to come in and make vast changes immediately. I felt as a good leader it's best to understand what are the processes, the current processes, and then once I'm able to get my arms around it, look for areas -- look for opportunities to improve, which ultimately we did.

Q. So now that we've talked about kind of your experience when you got in, I'm now going to go back to the questions I was asking before about the period between 2013 and May of 2017.

But before I do that, let me just ask you to make sure I understand. The Grow program,

Lawyer - examination/Walden so everyone is clear, is it fair to say that's designed to create new jobs, retain new jobs, or encourage capital investments?

- A. Correct.
- Q. And it gives tax incentives if companies do one or more of those things?
- A. Ye
- Q. And for companies that were, at the time of their application, they were already in New Jersey, does every Grow applicant need to show that the jobs were at risk, as the program was administered, does every applicant have to show that the jobs were at risk of moving out of the state?
 - A. That is my understanding.
- Q. And is that true even where an application proposes to move jobs intrastate from a city outside of Camden to Camden?
 - A. That is my understanding, yes.
- Q. Does the EDA, did the EDA during this period, again, as part of its administration, require the submission of proof regarding the out of state location?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And before I talk about the kinds of proof that you found that the EDA was accepting, let me just ask you, as a general matter, did the EDA require that the location be bona fide?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Did the EDA require that the location be suitable for business?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And did the EDA require that the location be available?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Now, if you would, what kinds of proof did you find that the EDA was either accepting or asking for as a proxy for those -- those issues?
 - A. Primarily letters of intent.
- Q. Can we refer to those generally as LOIs?
 - A. LOIs.
- Q. Okay. So I'm sure that the LOIs come in various shapes and sizes but could you just give the people who are listening a brief explanation of your understanding what an LOI is.
- A. In other words, it's a terms sheet. It's someone who has the actual asset. They are

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Lawyer - examination/Walden making an offer on, this is what they may be willing to provide you to meet your need in whatever project that you have.

- Q. And would it be the underwriter's expectation that the company actually did diligence to make sure that that location was suitable?
 - A. Yes.
 - O. And that the location was available?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And if the location didn't seem suitable or available, or bona fide, fair to say that the underwriter would ask more questions and ask for more documents?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. And did, in your estimation or based on your experience, does the underwriter have the authority to ask for underlying business records, "Show me the business plans for why this site is suitable," for example?
- A. Right, generally speaking the underwriter can ask for any additional information they deem in support of that alternative location that they questioned an LOI.
 - Q. And if there was a circumstance, as a

Page 138 Page 139 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 hypothetical question, if there was a circumstance Q. And based on your work, is that chart 3 3 where a company made a submission of an accurate and complete? 4 out-of-state location and the underwriter 4 A. It is. 5 5 determined that it was a phantom location, for Q. And of the 31 companies, is it fair to 6 example, that it was not a bona fide location, what 6 say that 30 of them according to their application 7 7 impact could that have on that particular indicated an intention to either move to Camden or 8 8 to move to an out-of-state location? application? 9 9 A. Yes. A. It could be declined. 10 Q. All right. So I'm going to ask you to 10 Q. And is it fair to say that the one 11 look at tab 1 of your binder. 11 company that doesn't fall in the 30 was going to 12 A. Okay. 12 eliminate jobs in Camden? 13 13 Q. Now, did you, fair to say that we A. Correct. 14 14 showed you this document before your testimony Q. You can shut that now, I'll --15 today? 15 MR. WALDEN: -- does anyone know the 16 A. Yes. 16 exhibit number this this? I'm going to deem 17 17 Q. Is this a chart that represents 31 this as previously -- we're going to call 18 18 companies? this 9. 19 A. Yes, it is. 19 REC'D (Task Force Exhibit 9, chart 20 20 showing data re 31 companies, received in Q. And are those 31 companies all of the 21 21 companies that you're aware of between the start of evidence, as of this date.) 22 22 Q. I'm going move on to the next subject the Grow program and presently, that applied to 23 retain jobs -- to retain or to move jobs to Camden 23 but I want to ask you a little bit about the timing 24 from within the state? 24 of the applications. 25 25 A. Yes. Is it fair to say that the applications Page 141 Page 140 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 Q. So that whole timeline that you talked were very complex? 3 A. Very, yes. 3 4 4 O. And even at the initial stages for the in a couple of weeks or a month? 5 5 BDO's work, the business development officer, does A. I have not seen that. 6 it take quite sometime for the business officer to 6 Q. How quickly, what's the average time 7 7 gather up the information and make sure that he or 8 8 she is comfortable with the level of documentation 9 9 in the file? approval stage? 10 10 A. It can, yes.

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Q. And is it fair to say that the BDOs, the expectation that the underwriter is going to have is that once the BDO passes it off, most of the questions are already answered in the file?

A. Well, most -- most of the information is contained in the file, yes.

Q. That's what -- I'm sorry, most of the information --

A. Correct.

Q. So an underwriter's job is hopefully, if all the information is there, then you can do the deep dive and analyze it.

A. Correct.

Q. And verify it or vet it.

A. Yes.

- about, is that something that generally can occur
- that you think an average application takes to go from the business development stage to the board
- A. I would say a fair assessment is anywhere between four to nine months. It could be more, it could be less.
- Q. Nine being ones that what, what would put an application at the back end of the time scale?
- A. It could be various. Sometimes if the application is not complete on the business development side, and they are working on obtaining information, it's just a play on time to receive everything that they need.

Or it could be a question that was either posed during the business development period or the underwriting process that prolongs the approval process. We're waiting on additional information.

Page 142 Page 143 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 Q. Okay. Now, is it fair to say that, Organization, and NFI. 3 3 prior to coming here today, I asked you to review A. Okay. 4 five applications? 4 Q. Did the BDO describe to you that she 5 had a general process for how she went about her 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. And I asked to you review the project 6 work? 7 7 files for those five applications. A. Yes. 8 8 Q. And is it fair to say that that process A. Yes. 9 9 began with a preliminary step of diligence? Q. And is it fair to say that that 10 includes -- I'm sorry, I'm only going to ask you 10 A. Yes. 11 about four of the applications. Is it fair to say 11 Q. Describe what she said in terms of what 12 that that includes Connor Strong Buckelew, The 12 that step of diligence was. 13 13 Michaels Organization --A. So part of it is to complete a Google 14 14 search on the applicant; specifically, to look for A. Yes. 15 O. -- NFI Industries --15 any legal items and also, to have a conversation 16 16 with the applicant to ensure that she understands A. Yes. 17 17 Q. -- and Cooper Health? the project. And then ultimately, to start 18 18 gathering information to ensure that the A. Yes. 19 19 Q. And did I also ask you whether or not application package is complete when it's 20 you could speak to the BDO and the underwriter on 20 submitted to underwriting. 21 21 those files to make sure that you were familiar Q. Now, according to the BDO, did she 22 22 with the relevant issues? actually perform this preliminary step of diligence 23 A. Yes. 23 on these three applications, Connor Strong, NFI and 24 24 Q. I'm going to first ask you about the TMO? 25 applications for Connor Strong, The Michaels 25 A. She did, yes. Page 145 Page 144 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 respect to Google, understanding that the Q. So I want you to just look at slide 3 3 3 for a second and, you know, just summarize slide 3. application was submitted on October 24th of 2016. 4 4 Is it fair to say that each of the applications was So in order to ask that question, can you go to tab 5 5 for a Grow New Jersey award? 5 of your binder. 6 6 A. Okay. A. Yes. 7 7 Q. Can you describe was in tab 5? Q. Is it fair to say that they were all 8 8 filed on October 24th of 2016? A. It's an article in the Philadelphia 9 9 A. Yes. Inquirer titled, "Plans Announced For Vast New 10 Q. And each company indicated in its 10 Development on Camden Waterfront." 11 11 application that it was considering a move to Q. I'm sorry, what is the date of the 12 Philadelphia? 12 article? 13 13 A. Yes. A. September 24th, 2015. 14 Q. And each of the companies was 14 Q. So a little bit more than a year before 15 15 represented by the same consultant? the applications were filed. 16 16 A. Yes. A. That is correct. 17 17 Q. And who was the consultant? Q. Now, did you see any indication in the 18 A. Kevin Sheehan. 18 file that BDO or the underwriter found this 19 Q. I just want you to know just for the 19 document? 20 20 sake of your reference, that if you need to refer A. No. 21 21 to the applications at any time, that they are tabs Q. Prior to your testimony today, did you 22 2, 3 and 4 of the binder. 22 have an opportunity to review this document? 23 23 A. Okay. A. Yes. 24 24 Q. So first of all I'm going to ask you Q. And does it raise a question or a 25 25 about a specific article that was discoverable with concern for you?

Page 146 Page 147 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 A. It does. legitimate explanation that they are choosing 3 3 O. Could you explain it to us. another site in Philadelphia. 4 A. Sure. So in the article, I'm not 4 A. Yes. 5 5 going to use names, I assume --Q. And in fairness, each of the companies 6 6 actually submitted LOIs, letters of intent, for Q. Yes. 7 7 locations in Philadelphia, correct? A. -- so in the article it makes 8 8 A. Correct. reference to Mr. George Norcross, head of Cooper 9 9 University Hospital board, that his insurance Q. So I'm going to ask you some questions 10 10 firm, Connor Strong & Buckelew, is considering about the proposed out-of-state locations for each, 11 11 moving its headquarters into the development. and then after I ask you the factual questions, I 12 Other companies expected to join include the 12 just want to make sure that everyone has a common 13 Archer & Greiner PC law firm which has offices in 13 understanding of the facts, then I'm going to go 14 14 Haddonfield, New Jersey, and Philadelphia and and ask you some questions about the significance 15 Cherry Hill, supply chain company NFI Industries, 15 of those facts again, just from an underwriting 16 16 and The Michaels Organization, a Cherry Hill perspective, do you understand that? 17 17 housing company that has done work in Camden. A. Yes. 18 18 And so from reading this, one can Q. So again, each of these applicants 19 glean, have they already -- have they already made 19 submitted real estate proposals for commercial 20 20 spaces in Philadelphia to substantiate the risk a decision as far as their New Jersey location. 21 21 that the jobs at their companies could move out of Q. So you don't know that, this is a 22 22 question -state. 23 23 A. Yes. A. Right, this is a question that 24 24 Q. So what you see behind you, again, I comes --25 25 apologize that you don't have a chair that spins, Q. -- there might be a completely Page 148 Page 149 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 but if it's easier for you, if you want to walk 2 correct? 3 3 around and look at it while you point the A. That's fine. 4 Q. So before I do that, let me just get 4 microphone at the screen, that's fine --5 5 A. No, it's -the addresses down. Is it fair to say that the 6 Q. -- okay, you're good. So you're 6 address that Connor Strong & Buckelew was 7 familiar with this chart, we've talked about it 7 considering, was it 1601 Market Street in the City before, correct? 8 8 of Philadelphia? 9 9 A. Yes. A. Yes. 10 10 Q. So tell me if I'm explaining it Q. Is it fair to say that the address for 11 11 correctly, and anything else you want to add. NFI was 1500 Spring Garden Street in the City of 12 12 A. Okay. Philadelphia? 13 13 Q. It's organized for each of the three A. Yes. 14 companies, and each of them has a proposal 1 and a 14 O. Was the address for The Michaels 15 15 proposal 2. And there is a row for the date of the Organization the same or different than the address 16 16 proposal, the total square footage, the floors and that NFI had proffered? 17 17 the basement. Correct? A. The same. 18 18 Q. Now, again, based on your discussion A. Yes. 19 19 with the underwriter, is it fair to say that, after Q. And you've had an opportunity to review 2.0 2.0 these LOIs prior to your testimony today. the underwriter reviewed the first set of 21 21 A. Correct. proposals, which we'll get to the details in a 22 Q. And so again, in the interests of time, 22 minute, he knows the problem? 23 23 do you mind if I just lead you through the A. Yes.

information since you've already verified that the

information we're going to populate here is

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Q. And what was the problem?

A. It was the length of time between the

Page 150 Page 151 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 proposal 1 and proposal 2, and I believe a Q. Okay. So why don't we just go 3 3 difference in the square footage. through -- hold on one second, I think I'm going to 4 Q. I'm sorry, the underwriter -- again, 4 skip some questions in the interests of time --5 5 sorry if I'm going to lead you a little bit on okay. Let me just ask this question, just, again, 6 this, is it fair to say that the underwriter 6 to speed things up: 7 7 noticed that the LOIs were expired? Is it fair to say that based on your 8 8 A. Yes. file review, when the underwriter determined that 9 9 Q. When I say expired, do you understand the initial LOIs had lapsed, had expired, he made a 10 10 that to mean that the proposals are no longer specific request of the consultant or the lawyer or 11 11 available? lobbyist, whatever, that was representing each of 12 12 these three companies --A. Correct. One can make that 13 13 interpretation, yes. A. Yes. 14 14 Q. And is it fair to say that the Q. -- and was the request for them to 15 proposals according to what the underwriter found, 15 extend the LOI? 16 the proposals for each of these companies, Connor 16 A. Yes. 17 17 Strong, NFI and The Michaels Organization, had Q. And why would the underwriters use a 18 18 actually expired before the applications were even word like that, to "extend the LOI" that already 19 submitted? 19 existed? 20 20 A. That's right. A. To ensure that the same datapoints on 21 21 Q. In your experience, is that unusual? that original LOI still exist in the future. 22 22 A. I would -- yes, it's unusual. O. Is that also a recognition of the 23 23 underwriter's perspective that this is an address Q. Why? 24 2.4 A. Because it casts doubt on whether that that they vetted before, that they have determined 25 25 is suitable, that they have done some research on site is available. Page 152 Page 153 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 to make sure it will meet their company's needs? Q. And again, is that an indicator that A. Correct. 3 that's what Connor Strong believes it needs for its 3 4 4 Q. Okay. And is it fair to say that, operations? 5 5 based on your review of the file, this individual A. Yes. 6 that was handling these applications, and again, 6 Q. And it was on floors 3 through 7 and 11 7 I'll just use his name, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Sheehan 7 and 12? 8 actually did not get extensions for the LOIs that 8 A. Yes. 9 9 were originally filed but expired. Q. And the square footage was \$25.95 a 10 A. That's right. 10 retail square foot. 11 11 Q. Is it fair to say that he essentially A. Yes. 12 12 got new LOI's for similar space but that had Q. Okay. Now, let's go to proposal 2. 13 13 Proposal 2 was submitted on December 1st of 2016. differences? 14 14 A. Yes. 15 15 Q. And did he do that immediately or did Q. So that's, if the LOI's had expired, if 16 16 some number of months pass? you remember, was it September 9th of 2016? 17 17 A. It took some time. A. Right. 18 O. So now, I'd like to just go through and 18 Q. So there was approximately a 19 populate the chart, okay? So do I understand 19 three-month gap? 20 2.0 correctly that the first Connor Strong & Buckelew A. Yes. 21 21 proposal was dated on August 29th of 2016? Q. And the space on this one dropped from 22 A. That's correct. 22 153,000 square feet, roughly, to approximately 23 23 110,000 square feet. Q. And it had roughly 153,345 square feet 24 24 of space in the lease proposal? A. That's correct. 25 25 A. Yes. And the floors changed slightly in the

Page 154 Page 155 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 sense that it's still 3 through 7, but now instead than the Connor Strong one. It was at the end of 3 3 of 11 and 12, it was for 13? February of 2017. 4 A. Correct. 4 A. Yes. 5 5 Q. And the square footage, despite the Q. And it dropped about ten thousand 6 6 square feet in terms of the square footage? differences in the space, the square footage -- I 7 7 mean, the base rents stayed the same? A. That's correct. 8 8 Q. It was just a little bit more than A. Correct. 9 9 Q. Okay. Again, we're going to come back 93,000 square feet? 10 to the significance of this at the end. But let's 10 A. Yes. 11 11 go to NFI, if we can have that first NFI. Q. It was still on the second floor? 12 12 Fair to say that, like the Connor A. Yes. Strong, it was submitted on August 29th of 2016? 13 13 Q. And the price break they got for, I 14 14 assume, for the difference was about fifty cents a 15 Q. It was a little bit more than 103,000 15 square foot, correct? 16 16 square feet? A. Correct. 17 17 Q. So it was 22.50 a retail square foot. A. Correct. 18 18 O. And it was all on the second floor? A. Yes. 19 19 Q. Okay. Now, from the LOI, could you A. Yes. 20 20 Q. And it was \$23 a retail square foot. determine that the expiration date on this proposal 21 A. Yes. 21 was March 24th of 2017? 22 A. Yes. 2.2 O. Hold on one second. 23 23 (A pause in the proceedings.) Q. Okay. Now, I just want to ask you a 2.4 Okay, if we can go to proposal number 24 couple of questions before I move on to The 25 2.5 2, please. So this one was submitted even later Michaels Organization about what the underwriter Page 156 Page 157 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 did or didn't ask about based on your review of the calling out or getting an explanation for why there 3 3 file. was a new LOI instead of an extension of the old 4 4 Did you see any indication in the file LOI? 5 5 that the underwriter called out the fact that the A. No, I don't recall. 6 Connor Strong proposal dropped roughly forty 6 Q. Was there any indication in the file 7 thousand square feet in terms of the space that 7 that the underwriter asks questions about the gap 8 8 they were getting in the second proposal? in time, you know, how this space could have been 9 9 A. Yes. available if, in the intervening period, they had 10 10 Q. You found indication that he asked no coverage and the original space wasn't available 11 11 about that change? the way it was configured originally? 12 12 A. No, I'm thinking of a different A. No. 13 question. So, no, there wasn't, there wasn't any 13 Q. So let's then go to The Michaels 14 14 Organization. Fair to say that the date was, the indication. 15 15 original date was just a day after the other two on Q. Did you find any indication in the file 16 16 that he asked about the change in configuration in August 30th of 2016? 17 17 the sense of 11 and 12 having been in the first A. Yes. 18 proposal, and floor 13 being in the second? 18 Q. And is it fair to say that, on this 19 A. I do not. 19 one -- well, they had two different options; they 20 Q. And for the NFI proposal, did you see 20 had an option for 103,491 feet on floor 2, or they 21 21 anything that suggested that the underwriter asked had an option for 103,710 square feet on floors 1 22 about the difference in space dropping from 103,000 22 through 7. 23 23 to 93,000? A. Yes.

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A. I do not recall.

Q. And do you recall the underwriter

Q. Now, just to be clear, the 103,491 feet

on the second floor, that's the same space that had

Page 158 Page 159 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 originally been offered to NFI with NFI's first Q. Again, a change in the space. It was 3 3 only -- a little bit, almost 96,000 square feet? proposal. 4 A. Yes. 4 A. Yes. 5 5 And the base rent was \$23 a square O. And instead of either the second floor 6 6 option or the first and seventh floor option, this foot. 7 7 one was configured where some space was in the A. Correct. 8 8 O. Now, were you able to determine, based basement, some space was on the first floor, some 9 9 on the issuance of this letter and the expiration space was on the seventh floor, and some space was 10 10 date, that this proposal actually, even though it on the twelfth floor. 11 was expired, was only good for eleven days? 11 A. Correct. 12 A. It was only good for eleven days. 12 Q. But the price break they got based on 13 O. Is that unusual? 13 the change in configuration was the same as the 14 14 A. Yes, it is. price break that NFI got. 15 Q. And is it fair to say that with NFI, it 15 A. Yes. 16 had a similar problem, it was good for twelve days? 16 Q. For significantly less material changes 17 17 A. Yes. to the configuration. 18 Q. So could you find any indication in the 18 A. Correct. 19 19 file that the underwriter asked about the short Q. Okay. Now, let me just ask you a 20 duration of time that these LOIs were good for? 20 couple of questions, again, based on your review of 21 A. No, I don't recall that. 21 the file. 22 22 Q. You don't recall. Okay. Let's go Is it fair to say that -- excuse me one 23 through TMO, number 2, please, again, submitted on 23 second. 24 the same day as NFI, on February 28th of 2017? 24 (A pause in the proceedings.) 25 25 A. Yes. Q. With respect to the second TMO Page 160 Page 161 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 proposal, the one on the basement, the first floor, 2 significant change in configuration? 3 3 the seventh floor and the twelfth floor, is it fair A. No. 4 4 to say that of that space, not all of that square O. And any evidence in the file that the 5 5 underwriter asked about the gap between September footage was actually even available? 6 6 9th and February 28th? A. Correct. 7 7 Q. Do you know what a ROFR is? A. No. 8 8 A. A ROFR? Q. Okay. So now that we understand the 9 9 Q. Right of first refusal -facts, right, let me turn then to kind of the 10 A. Oh, right of -- yes. 10 significance of those facts. Again, just from the 11 11 perspective of your position now as the manager of Q. Did that proposal number 2 for The 12 12 Michaels Organization make clear that one of those a department that's supposed to be underwriting to 13 13 spaces had a tenant that existed already that had a the level of standards that you hold, right? 14 right of first refusal on that space? 14 That's the nature of my questions. I want to be 15 15 A. Yes. clear. 16 16 Q. And is it fair to say that that square This is not about the companies, this 17 footage was on the seventh floor and it represented 17 is not about whether there are reasons to explain 18 approximately 30 percent of the 95,000 square feet? 18 all this. We don't have all the records yet. I'm A. Yes. 19 19 only asking you about whether or not the 20 20 underwriter in your professional judgement should Q. Okay. And could you find anywhere in 21 21 the file that the underwriter asked about the fact have done more; do you understand that? 22 22 that some of the space was not available? A. Got it. 23 23 Q. Okay. Does it raise a concern for you 24 Q. And could you find any evidence in the 24 that the NFI and TMO proposals, proposal number 1, 25 25 file that the underwriter asked about the were for such a short duration?

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Lawyer - examination/Walden

A. It does.

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- Q. And from an underwriting perspective, would that raise a potential that the -- that these proposals, these out-of-state proposals that are the proxy for the jobs being at risk, that these proposals aren't really bona fide?
 - A. They can.
- Q. And in those circumstances, if you were the underwriter, would you ask more questions?
 - A. I would, yes.
- Q. Does it raise a concern or question, at least, that the proposals, the first three proposals expired before the applications were ever even submitted?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Does that raise, again, the potential that the underwriter should be looking for other indicia that these places are bona fide?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. And that they are suitable?
- 22 A. Yes.
 - Q. And that they are available?
- 2.4 A. Yes.
 - Q. Does it raise kind of a further

Lawyer - examination/Walden question that there was such a large gap in all of the proposals, but more so in the NFI and TMO ones, there's such a big gap between the first proposal and the second proposal?

- A. Yes.
- Q. Again, is that, from an underwriting perspective, is that potential indicia that more questions need to be asked to ensure that this location is bona fide?
 - A. Yes, I would ask more questions.
- Q. And does the fact that -- and this one I'm really focusing on the TMO -- does the fact that the configuration changed so much raise any further questions or concerns that merit additional questions?
 - A. It does.
- Q. And the, again, less so with NFI and The Michaels Organization, but more so with the Connor Strong one, does it raise an additional question or concern that there is such a large change in square footage between proposal 1 and proposal 2, requiring the asking of more questions?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Again, I just want to note from an

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Lawyer - examination/Walden underwriting perspective, the fact that all of the companies were using the same consultant and that two of the companies were intending to locate in the same exact building in Philadelphia, and that they were offering actually the same space in one of the proposals, does that, from an underwriting perspective, does that raise any additional questions or concerns?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And I take it in your professional judgement, more questions would be done anyway.
 - A. It would.
- Q. And from an underwriting perspective, does it raise additional questions or concerns that, with respect to The Michaels Organization, a significant block of the space was not even available?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Do you see these issues as serious issues from an underwriting perspective?
 - A. Well, it depends on the responses.
- Q. Oh, I'm sorry, I should have asked you a question. Based on the totality of the

circumstances and the number of changes in the LOIs

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Lawyer - examination/Walden and the various issues we've discussed as an underwriter, would your questions in this regard be serious?

- A. Yes, because I think there's a pattern.
- Q. Okay. So I'm going to ask you about one more application.
 - A. Okav.
- Q. And it's the tab 13 and I just ask that you take a look, tell us what application this is.
 - A. Cooper Health System.
- Q. Now, before I ask these questions, and you know this already but just let me be clear, when I asked you before with respect to the other applications whether or not the underwriter should ask more questions, one of those questions, depending on the oral information that they get, a question about obtaining business records that the company has that are contemporaneous to their evaluation of the sites, to show things like, they were doing site visits at the out-of-state location, they actually had a business plan, there was a spreadsheet that had been created months ago that showed what the relocation and the build-out

Page 166 Page 167 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 costs should be, that's an option for the A. Yes. 3 3 underwriter, correct? O. And is it fair to say that Cooper was 4 A. We lead with the CBA, but if 4 intending to, with respect to the Camden option, to 5 5 move its administrative facilities from another additional information is needed to complete the 6 analysis, yes, we can ask for additional items, 6 location to Camden? 7 7 which would include some of those items that A. Yes. 8 you've mentioned. 8 Q. And were they going to move into a 9 9 building that was generally referred to as the L-3 Q. And if -- and again, I'm not -- we 10 10 didn't have all the facts with respect to these building? 11 11 applications so this is just a question about the A. Yes. 12 practice, not these applications; but if, with 12 Q. And the company, is it fair to say that 13 13 these applications, the underwriter had some the company articulated that it was moving its 14 14 serious questions about whether the sites were offices to Philadelphia? 15 suitable, bona fide and available, the underwriter 15 A. Yes. 16 16 Q. That was the potential out-of-state has the option to asking for some of the business 17 17 records that I just outlined. location? 18 18 A. Yes. A. Yes. 19 Q. Okay. So now we're going to show an 19 Q. Is it fair to say they were also 20 example where we actually do have business records, 20 represented by Kevin Sheehan at Parker McCay? 21 21 so you understand that. You said the application 22 22 was for whom? O. Is it fair to say that the application 23 A. The Cooper Health System. 23 was approved on December 9th of 2014? 24 24 Q. Just looking at the slide just to make A. Board approval, yes. 25 25 things easy, it was filed on November 7th of 2014? Q. So we've talked about this from a while Page 168 Page 169 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 A. Oh, sure. "Are any jobs listed in the ago, but that's a month and two days. Before I 3 3 asked you to review this application, had you ever application at risk of being located outside of 4 4 seen that in your entire time at the EDA? New Jersey?" And the response is no. "List other 5 A. Not that I recall. 5 states New Jersey is in competition with," and the 6 6 Q. And is it fair to say that the amount answer is TBD, to be determined. 7 of money awarded with respect to Cooper Health was 7 O. I want to pause there for one second, 8 \$40 million over ten years? 8 and I want to turn to tab 15 in the binder. 9 9 A. Yes. Is it fair to say that this is part of 10 10 Q. Do you know whether or not any of that the application, Mr. Lawyer? 11 money has been paid to date? 11 A. Fifteen? 12 A. I do. 12 Q. No, I'm sorry, I'm asking you a -- this 13 13 Q. How much has been paid? is on the application itself. 14 A. 13,082,000. 14 A. It is, yes. 15 15 Q. Okay. Now, in reviewing the Q. So essentially this is what the CEO 16 application, did you notice a problem? 16 certified to. 17 17 A. There was a question regarding at-risk A. Correct. 18 jobs and an alternate location to be determined. 18 Q. Now, turn to tab 15 in the binder, if 19 19 Q. So can you just turn to, it's in tab you will. Do you see that there is highlighted 20 20 13. I think it's highlighted for your convenience. language there for your convenience? 21 2.1 Can you just, it's up on the screen but God knows A. Yes. 22 if anyone has better eyes than me. I can't read 22 Q. Before you get to the highlighted 23 23 it. Are you able to read that? Sorry about that. language, can you tell everyone what this is? 24 We'll read it into the record. Go ahead. Read the 24 A. This is our confidential memorandum of 25 25 highlighted section -analysis.

Page 170 Page 171 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 Q. So is this something that is written by Mt. Laurel, New Jersey into one location in 3 3 EDA staff based on information that's provided by Camden, specifically 123,578 square feet in the 4 the applicant? 4 L-3 building. The alternative is to relocate 5 5 these jobs to Philadelphia, PA." A. That's correct. 6 6 Q. Do I understand correctly that it was Q. Can you read the second highlighted 7 7 the general practice that this is the information portion? 8 8 to which the CEO has certified? A. "Overall when factoring in both the 9 9 up-front and annual operating costs to operate the A. Yes. 10 10 Q. So this is essentially information project, it is estimated that the New Jersey 11 11 that's been sworn. location would be \$555,154 more expensive over ten 12 12 years on a net-present-value basis. As a result, A. Correct. 13 13 Q. But again, to be clear, the CEO the company has applied for Grow New Jersey tax 14 14 certification that you reviewed was for November, credits to offset these costs and make New Jersey 15 not December. 15 more competitive. Management has indicated that 16 A. Okay. 16 the award is a material factor in the company's 17 17 decision to locate the project in New Jersey." Q. And did you, in any way, find either an 18 18 Q. Okay. So now, if you will -- hold on amended application or an amended CEO 19 certification? 19 one second. 20 20 A. No. (A pause in the proceedings.) 21 21 Q. Let me show you, then, the real estate Q. So can you just read the language 22 2.2 proposal that you found in the file, if you can go that's highlighted into the record, please? 23 A. Sure. "Cooper Health System is 23 to tab 16. 24 24 planning a consolidation of back office operations So again, the approval was on December 25 from several locations in Cherry Hill and 25 9th. Can you tell us the date of the LOI that Page 172 Page 173 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 Cooper Health submitted in support of its 2 estate broker. 3 application? 3 A. Right. 4 4 A. December 5th, 2014. O. And what's the name of the individual 5 5 O. And is it the same or different broker who sent this e-mail? 6 than the broker on the TMO, NFI and Connor Strong 6 A. Andrew Bush. 7 7 LOIs? Q. Now, can you just read the highlighted 8 8 language of the cover e-mail into the record. A. It's the same. 9 9 Q. Okay. And if you turn to the second A. "Please find attached a letter of 10 page of the document, what is the location, the 10 intent from a prospective Philadelphia landlord. 11 street location that they are considering a move to 11 The terms are slightly more aggressive than those 12 according to this submission? 12 presented in the cost/benefit analysis, meaning 13 13 A. 1500 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA. that there is more of a burden to Cooper to remain 14 Q. Do you remember in the file whether you 14 in New Jersey." 15 15 found that there was a cover e-mail that submitted Q. Can I ask you a question? 16 16 this document? A. Yes. 17 17 (A pause in the proceedings.) Q. My colleagues have told me that there's 18 18 Q. Well, why don't you turn to tab 17 and a live feed, meaning it's being streamed by 19 see, to the extent you don't remember, if that 19 someone, I'm not sure who, and they can't hear you, 20 20 refreshes your recollection. so could you just pull the mike a little closer, or 21 A. Yes. get closer to it. Thank you. 2.2 O. What is the date of tab 17? 22 Did you read the highlighted language 23 23 A. December 5th, 2014. into the record? I got distracted for a second. Q. So it was submitted to the EDA on the 24 24 A. I did, yes. 25 25 very day of the letter being issued by the real Q. So let me just ask you some questions

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Lawyer - examination/Walden about how this works because you've explained it to me before, and I'm not -- I'm still not sure that I understand it. CEO signs a certification on day

A. Um-hum.

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- Q. On day whatever, one through five months from now, other things are happening, right? There may be changes, I mean, it's not uncommon at all for, in that process, for things to change, right?
 - A. Right.
- Q. Spaces might be different on different locations. A lot of different things happen.
 - A. Um-hum.
- Q. Is it usually the case where there are material changes in an application that there's an amended application or an amended CEO certification saying, at the end of the process, "I've now familiarized myself with everything and it's accurate"?
- A. I don't recall specific events that took place. But I would imagine that if there were material changes to an application and materials that were provided, yes, there was a

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Lawyer - examination/Walden revised CEO certification that was provided and even a revised application.

- Q. Okay. But in this circumstance, is it fair to say that for small changes that don't really affect anything, would EDA go through that trouble?
 - A. No.
- Q. But if there were, again, if you know, because you're talking about a period of time that you didn't have the underwriting pen, you didn't have the department, as its leader, do you know whether or not as a general matter, underwriters were told the CEO certification is backward and forward-looking, it's certifying that it's in the process and, if there are changes, that the CEO is aware of it, and they've got to call out if the CEO, if it's exempted somehow from the certification?
 - A. I'm not familiar with that concept.
- Q. Do you know of case where is there was a change that was material and that the CEO actually did another certification? Do you know of a circumstance for that happening sitting here today?

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Lawyer - examination/Walden

- A. No, I don't know of a specific circumstance but I can imagine that it likely has happened.
- Q. So remember when we were talking about reforms?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Would this be another kind of policy that would be sent to tie down that when there were material changes to an application that might actually affect whether they qualified for their award at all, that the CEO recertified to whatever the new state of facts is?
- A. Right. One would probably need to define what is meant by "significant change." Any change is left to interpretation, but yes, I think that there's value in it.
 - Q. Okay. Hold on one second. (A pause in the proceedings.)
- Q. All right. So, excuse me, I'm going to ask you, I just want to unpack this a little bit, right? So we get from -- from November to the approval in December. Is it fair to say that, with respect to this issue, and to the Philadelphia location that was eventually proffered four days

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1 Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 before the approval, there were some relevant 3 e-mails that talked about the back-and-forth? 4

- Q. So turn to tab 18 if you will. You see that it begins with an e-mail from -- hold on -from Theresa Wells to Andrew Bush, do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And do you see that there's a difference in the color of the writing between the black and the blue?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And do you see in the top e-mail there's a response from Andrew Bush to Theresa Wells saying, "Sorry for the delay in the response, please see responses below"?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. So based on that, do you understand that she asked questions and then he provided answers?
 - A. Correct.
 - And that the date of this e-mail is O. what?
 - A. December 1st, 2014.
 - Okay. And can you then go down to the

Page 179 Page 178 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 body of her e-mail that has her question and his if we just skip over that question? 3 3 PROF. CHEN: Okay. answer, and read both of them into the record for 4 us, please. 4 MR. WALDEN: Okay. 5 5 A. Number one? Q. So now, did you see any indication in 6 6 the file that the underwriter in this case asked Correct. 7 7 "Please provide the backup on the any questions about the fact that the application 8 proposed terms for each of the locations, New 8 was submitted saying, "No jobs were at risk"? 9 Jersey and Pa., i.e., terms sheets, letters of 9 A. No. 10 10 intent and/or draft lease agreements." The Q. Did you see any indication in the file 11 11 response, "I am touring alternate locations in Pa. that the underwriter asked any questions concerning 12 on Wednesday and hope to have terms sheets by the 12 what the company meant when it said the competitor 13 13 end of the week." state location is TBD, or to be determined? 14 14 Q. So in your experience, is it unusual A. No. 15 that an application would be looking for locations 15 Q. Did you find any indications in the 16 16 file that the underwriter asked any questions about after an application was already filed? 17 17 A. In this context, yes. why Andrew Bush at Cooper Health was doing a site 18 18 tour after the application had been filed? Q. But you don't know --19 PROF. CHEN: Theresa Wells, can we 19 A. No. 2.0 20 identify who she is? Q. Okay. All right. So if there was an 21 21 Q. I'm sorry, who is Theresa Wells? explanation for this, what the underwriter could 22 22 A. I wasn't sure you actually meant to have done, as we talked about before, is to ask for 23 23 some underlying documents and ask the company to say the name. 24 2.4 Q. So why don't -explain these things and if the explanations 25 25 weren't enough, to provide documents to back it up, MR. WALDEN: -- do you mind, chairman, Page 180 Page 181 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 right? about in Camden was a building called L-3, right? 3 3 A. Yes, or a phone call. A. Yes. 4 4 O. Or a phone call. For example, the Q. So I'd like you to look first if you 5 5 company may have had a location that -- in will at tab 19. And I know that these aren't your 6 6 Philadelphia that was subject to a natural disaster documents but again I just kind of want to explore 7 and suddenly find itself without a place to stay, 7 the point of the kinds of things that an 8 8 right? underwriter could find if they asked, right? 9 9 A. Yes. So do you understand that tab 19 is an 10 10 Q. There are a million other explanations e-mail between John Sheridan and Doug Shirley? 11 11 that might answer some of these questions, correct? A. Yes. 12 A. Correct. 12 Q. And it's forwarding, Shirley is 13 13 Q. But the point of this exercise is not, forwarding to John Sheridan an e-mail from Dave 14 again, what happened with the company, but what the 14 Foster? 15 15 underwriter did. Would you say the underwriter in A. Yes. 16 16 this circumstance should have asked more questions Q. And was Dave Foster at the time an 17 17 than the ones you found in the file? individual that worked at an organization called 18 A. The writing what I found in the file, 18 Cooper's Ferry? 19 yes. I don't know if any phone calls were made. 19 A. Yes. 20 2.0 Q. Fair enough. But you know now as you Q. And was Doug Shirley at the time the 21 sit there that we actually have obtained documents 21 CFO of Cooper Health? 22 from Cooper Health, right? 22 A. You mean John Shirley --23 23 A. Yes. O. Unless I had it --Q. And so I -- again, I just want to 24 24 A. Oh, Doug Shirley, I'm sorry, yes. 25 25 remind you that this building that they are talking Q. Doug Shirley was the CFO and John

Page 182 Page 183 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 Sheridan was the CEO. and balance sheet, the L-3 is the best deal by a 3 3 long shot. No other option can touch it so you A. Yes. 4 4 need to be okay with this option before we go out Q. And to summarize the earlier chain 5 5 which I know you've read, is this essentially an with it." 6 offer from Dave Foster to lease space in the L-3 6 Q. And again, we don't know what the CEO 7 7 building to Cooper Health? said based on the documents I put in front of you. 8 8 A. Correct. Right. A. 9 9 Q. And what's the date of that offer? Q. The CEO may have said, "No way, we're A. March 28th, 2014. 10 10 not going there," for whatever reason. 11 11 O. No, the one below. A. Right. 12 A. The one below. March 27th, 2014. 12 Q. CFO is focused on money, other 13 13 Q. And so we're talking roughly seven businesspeople are focusing on other things as 14 14 months before the Grow application. 15 A. Right. 15 A. Correct. 16 16 Q. Right? And do you see that in the top Q. But is it also fair to say that we 17 17 showed you a document that was dated about, a e-mail, Shirley is reacting to the terms of the 18 proposal that Foster made? 18 little bit less than a month later where Cooper 19 A. Correct. 19 Health was laying out the options that it was 20 20 Q. And could you just, maybe other considering? 21 21 people's eyes are better than mine, I can't read A. Yes. 2.2 that, could you just read the language that Shirley 2.2 Q. Turn to tab 20. Again, for the people 23 used into the record. 23 that have bad eyes like me, what does the top text 24 24 A. Sure. "I have the proposal from say above the black bar? 25 25 Liberty, and it is very rich! From a cash flow A. "Potential Cooper Office Options." Page 184 Page 185 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Walden Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 Q. And what's the date of the document? perspective of an underwriter, based on the 3 A. April 1st, 2014. totality of circumstances, do you think these 4 4 Q. And so the other e-mail that we just documents impact your assessment of whether or not 5 the Philadelphia location was bona fide, suitable 5 saw just was on March 27th, just a couple of days 6 6 earlier. and available? 7 7 A. Right. A. It does. 8 8 Q. You've reviewed this document before Q. And as an underwriter, if you do have 9 9 today? concerns on a scale from one to ten, ten being the 10 10 worst, based on the totality of the circumstances, A. Yes. 11 11 where is your concern as an underwriter as you look Q. Is it fair to say that each of the 12 three options that are listed are options in 12 at this file? 13 13 Camden? A. I was looking between a seven and 14 14 eight, probably a seven. A. Yes. 15 15 Q. So again, is it fair to say that if you O. None of them are at 1500 Market Street 16 16 were the underwriter -- again, the company may have in Philadelphia. 17 17 had plenty of explanations for all this stuff but a A. No. 18 18 lot more questions should be asked about this Q. And is it fair to say that this 19 document reflects in each instance that, at this 19 particular file. 20 2.0 time, Cooper Health was hoping for tax incentives A. Yes, I would have asked more 21 21 in each of the instances for each of these questions. But I wouldn't have anticipated to 22 buildings? 22 receive the e-mail that we just discussed. 23 23 Q. Oh, you wouldn't expect that e-mail to A. Yes. 24 24 be volunteered. Q. Okay. Now, we're done with the binder. 25 25 Focusing on this application, and again, from the A. Right.

Page 186 Page 187 1 1 Lawyer - examination/Chen Lawyer - examination/Walden 2 2 Q. Well, could I ask you this: If the believe they were assigned to the same 3 3 underwriter. company actually had a document that showed that 4 they made the decision before they ever applied for 4 PROF. CHEN: Okay, thanks. 5 5 Grow to stay in Camden, what would that do to their MR. WALDEN: That's actually a great 6 application? I'm not saying that occurred in this 6 question. 7 7 circumstance, but what significance would that be BY MR. WALDEN: 8 for that application? 8 O. Was the same BDO in both cases --9 9 A. That would be a problem. A. It was the same underwriter. 10 Q. Okay. 10 MR. WALDEN: Thanks. 11 11 MR. WALDEN: Prof. Chen, do you have Can we have a short break after this 12 any other questions for Mr. Lawyer? 12 witness? 13 13 PROF. CHEN: Just one. PROF. CHEN: I think that would be 14 14 **EXAMINATION BY** fine. Short, in class when I say five 15 PROF. CHEN: 15 minute break, people get back in ten. 16 16 MR. WALDEN: Five minutes. Q. So I understand how the EDA process 17 17 might work, it was noted that, in the original LOIs PROF. CHEN: Five minutes. by NFI and The Michaels Organization, the LOIs as 18 18 (Recess taken.) 19 specified, the same space, part of the same space 19 PROF. CHEN: Next we have testimony of 20 2.0 at 1500 Market Street. Mr. Tim Lizura. Mr. Lizura, welcome. 21 21 A. Correct. (Continued on following page.) 22 22 Q. Is it possible that those two 23 applications were assigned to different 23 24 24 underwriters? 25 25 A. I don't now about the BDO but I Page 188 Page 189 1 1 Lizura - examination/Walden Lizura - examination/Walden 2 2 TIMOTHY LIZURA, having been first today, Mr. Lizura, is it fair to say that we met 3 3 duly sworn, was examined and testified as before? 4 4 follows: A. We have. 5 5 **EXAMINATION BY** Q. We had a nice couple of hours together 6 6 to explore scenarios. MR. WALDEN: 7 7 A. We did. Q. So I think my colleague told you that 8 8 this is being live-streamed and the acoustics on You understand that today, I'm going to 9 9 ask you about a subset of those areas. the live stream are apparently challenging, and so 10 10 in order to accommodate the people that couldn't Yes. A. 11 11 physically be here, in the last hearing there were Q. You know you have a right to an 12 12 people all over the state that are listening, attorney here? 13 13 you've got to keep your mouth a little bit close to A. I do. 14 14 And your attorney is with you in the the microphone. Q. 15 15 So I know that some of the time we may room. 16 be looking at documents. Sometimes you may be 16 A. She is. 17 17 looking at the screen but if you could try to, and Q. But you're appearing here voluntarily? 18 I'll remind you if I think of it, to return and 18 A. Voluntarily. 19 19 give your answer to the microphone, that would be Q. We appreciate that, thank you very 2.0 20 great. Thank you very much. much, and thank you for the quality of information 21 21 So could you please say and spell your that you gave us when we were together. 22 name for the record. 22 A. Happy to do it. 23 23 A. Sure. It's Timothy Lizura, O. So first of all, why don't you start us 24 24 off telling us a little bit about your career. L-i-z-u-r-a. 25 25 Q. So in preparation for your testimony A. I've a short opening statement.

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Lizura - examination/Walden

Q. Actually, she told me that. And go ahead, please.

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- A. Thanks. Some of it might be covered in that but feel free to ask again.
 - Q. It will shorten my questions, perhaps.
- A. Prof. Chen, and Task Force, thank you for having me here today. My name is Timothy Lizura. For 22 years I devoted my work to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority because I believed in, and I still believe in, its mission to create and retain jobs for the people of New Jersey and to support positive economic development in our state.

I joined the EDA in 1995 as an analyst in the real estate development department, and I worked my way up to the position of President and Chief Operating Officer.

The EDA is a non-partisan organization. Our work was not to benefit any one governor, any one individual or one entity. Our priority and purpose always was to best serve and benefit the people of the State of New Jersey in accordance with the existing laws enacted by the legislature. I served at the EDA under every governor from

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Christine Todd Whitman to the first few months of
Governor Murphy's term. Three of these governors
were Republicans and four were Democrats.

Since 1974, the EDA's grants and financing have benefitted communities throughout New Jersey, and the laws that have evolved over those 45 years address the changing needs and priorities. My twenty-two years at the EDA span from 1995 'till 2018, with a brief time away post-9/11 when I was leading the World Trade Center's redevelopment efforts. During that tenure, regardless of who was at the helm of the state government, our purpose and mission of the EDA would not change.

The laws that the EDA was tasked to administer have included special focus on and incentives for the development of some of the poorest cities in our state. For example, Governor McGreevey signed the Municipal Rehabilitation and Recovery Act of 2002 to help the City of Camden. Governor Corzine signed the Urban Transit Hub Tax Credit law in 2007, and Governor Christie signed the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013, targeting cities such as Camden,

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Passaic. Paterson, Trenton and Atlantic City for redevelopment. As recently as October of 2018,
Governor Murphy expanded the Economic Opportunity
Act to benefit the City of Paterson and areas around the Atlantic City airport.

Although the EDA was consulted on proposed legislation, the laws were approved and enacted by the legislature and signed by the governor. These laws were highly complex and constantly in flux. The EDA was tasked with the day-to-day implementation of these laws.

Here's how the grant approval process worked. Applicant businesses were required to submit a detailed application. The EDA staff verified certain information, and the CEOs of those applicants were required to certify to the truthfulness of the application, which was a formal certification modeled after that required by Sarbanes-Oxley for public entities. Applications were reviewed and revised to ensure compliance with laws and regulations and if ultimately they did not comply, the applications were not advanced and were not submitted for approval by the EDA board. Throughout this entire

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Lizura - examination/Walden process, we were guided by the Attorney General's Office to ensure that each individual project conformed with the law and policy.

At the EDA, we worked within the parameters of the laws enacted by the legislature to get to a "yes," in order to encourage new jobs and businesses, investment and growth into areas of our state that sometimes faced the greatest challenges. Every project was vetted by the EDA staff, committee members, and the Attorney General's Office before it reached the board's level for approval. And to ensure adequate oversight, members of the Attorney General's Office were specifically designated to the EDA, working closely with us to review and approve projects and transactions. The Attorney-General's Office was included in all board committee meetings where we discussed in detail all the projects and all the policies and was present at every EDA board meeting where projects were approved.

Were we successful? The numbers show that, yes, we were. According the to the comptroller's report, as of February 2018, the \$11

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Lizura - examination/Walden billion in approved tax credits are based on one thousand approved projects that the EDA expects will generate more than \$33 billion in new capital investment, and result in a total of approximately 240,000 new and retained jobs. Those tax credits are only provided if employers complete the projects as approved, and maintain the jobs throughout the grant term. There are different ways to discuss these numbers but the simple and accurate conclusion is the same: The EDA expects these projects will generate far more revenue to the State of New Jersey than the total costs of the program.

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These programs were especially helpful for New Jersey's distressed cities. While New Jersey is one of the wealthiest states in the country, we are also home to a number of struggling communities which face an infrastructure of urban blight. We are not a large state, but our economic disparity is enormous. Over time, the legislature has tried to address that disparity.

Camden has long been one of the poorest if not the poorest city in the entire nation. To

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Lizura - examination/Walden bring businesses and jobs to Camden and other distressed communities, policymakers determined that significant incentives were needed to attract large scale meaningful investments into these regions, these regions that lacked viable commercial buildings and infrastructure.

We ran the EDA in a responsible and professional manner to bring together the interests of New Jersey and business. I am proud of the work that we did. During my tenure, we worked hard to bring jobs and investments throughout New Jersey within the parameters of an ever-changing legal and complicated legal landscape. And we were successful in our efforts to strengthen our state's economy and to help improve the lives of people and communities throughout New Jersey.

I thank you, and I thank you, Professor Chen, for the opportunity to come here today and I welcome whatever questions you might have.

- Q. Thank you very much, Mr. Lizura, and then if you could just speak into the microphone --
 - A. Okay.
 - Q. -- if one of my colleagues raises their

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Lizura - examination/Walden hands. I just want to ask you about a couple of things, and you're right, your opening statement did resolve some of my questions. And just as a point of amusement, I refer to you as the CEO, so I gave you a promotion --

- A. You seem to be the only one who has.
- Q. In any event, let me first ask you, again, this was not a question I asked you before, but when you were at the EDA, was there a woman there named Erin Gold?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And what position was she in?
- A. Prior to my departure, there was the director, I believe of governance and communications.
 - Q. So she served under you.
- A. She reported generally to either the CEO directly or to a senior vice-president.
- Q. And while you were there, how many different CEOs were there?
- A. In my tenure, we had three CEOs; Caren Franzini, Michelle Brown, and Melissa Orsen.
- Q. Are you still in touch with Ms. Gold today?

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- A. Not recently.
- Q. In the last six months or so, have you text-messaged with her at all?
- A. Last six months? I don't know that I did. Certainly not on a frequent basis, if it was a merry Christmas or happy holidays or something, it would be social, or -- "crazy times," something like that.
- Q. I just need to ask for some of this for a different reason. I appreciate the fact that you started with kind of an explanation of this. But I want to just first kind of help, for listeners and people in the audience that may not be policy wonks, do you consider yourself a policy wonk?
- A. I consider myself a good government guy.
- Q. Okay, for those people that may not be so steeped in the drivers of different kinds of incentive programs, can you just help us understand at a very high level, were tax incentives, what are tax incentives intended to do?
- A. It's a great question, and there's a couple of things I'd like to just say generally about tax incentives, right? So tax incentives

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Lizura - examination/Walden are a tool that municipalities and instrumentalities, whether the state, counties, local, national, use in order to try to influence behavior of corporations.

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What's interesting is, in the field of competing for these jobs, right, every state does this a little different. States like Texas have no corporate business tax at all. So that would be -- that's a way to do tax incentives, not charge taxes. State of Florida charges no gross income tax to its employees, so -- the two people who work in that state -- so there's a couple of levels of taxes and how it interplays with the success or lack of success your community will have.

Then absent -- then on top, or after the large kind of ten-thousand-foot level of tax policy and tax incentives is, how does it shape a decision to make an investment in a particular location?

So if you're a company, all things being equal, would you have had an inclination to invest in a stable, well-run thriving community or would you want to invest in a community with Page 199

Lizura - examination/Walden blight, poorly managed, and lack of infrastructure? Your choice would be obvious. You'd rather put your investment in the former.

So the way you get a company to think about investing in the latter is, you say, "If you do this, we will incent that decision through tax incentives." So there's kind of macro tax policy, which -- which is embedded in the code, and -- and not to go too far astray, but the code has all kinds of tax credits in it, new hire tax credits, investment tax credits, energy efficiency tax credits, all of which people file on their tax returns and check the box, and they submit it in and they get the benefit of the tax credit.

And then there's like tax credit law at a program level, so there's tax credits in the code, there's tax credits that are in a program, and there's tax policy, all those things kind of vet and shape how a company might choose to locate things.

Q. But the opening line which sounds familiar to me, because I've heard it many times, but the point is that the tax incentives at a very high level, is just to change corporate behavior,

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Lizura - examination/Walden and to change corporate decisions.

A. Yup.

Q. It's not in the short term, it's in the long term so there's a sustainable economy.

A. Well, that would be debatable.

Sometimes, I would say that in the Urban Transit
Hub tax credit, that program was narrow in scope.

It had a sunset on it, it had fixed level
incentives, it was designed to incent catalytic
investments. You had to spend \$50 million or more
on a project to qualify, it had to be in one of
eight target cities, it had to be -- so that
particular project was -- was a bit of goosing a
local economy rather than systemic changes over -over time.

So I think regular tax policy is a little bit more the, you know -- we'll get into it.

- Q. But with the Grow program in particular, is it fair to say that the Grow program is, given its focus on job retention, job creation, kind of a long-term vision --
 - A. Absolutely.
 - Q. And that's why the incentives are

Page 201

Lizura - examination/Walden spread out over a long time?

A. Yes. And the incentives being spread over a long time is both in order to -- in order to ensure that people maintain the jobs at the location that we approve of, and that is an important piece to this, because if you're creating those jobs in an urban area, and you're getting a higher compensation under the program, than a lower one, so you can't -- you can't -- you can't get approved in a distressed area and then move five years later, even though you're keeping the jobs in the state too, and expect that you're having the same kind of impact that we are expecting.

So it is a longer term commitment, but it also -- it also aligns the risk to the state appropriately. In that sense, you're not writing a check up front, and some states do this, some states will write you a check at approval and then try to get it back if you don't do what you're supposed to do. A lot of states get burned that way with programs.

Our program, I think, our program, or that program, that program, Grow, marries the risk

Page 202

Lizura - examination/Walden and reward appropriately because it allows the cost of the program to be spread over ten years and to it makes sure that we're not paying for jobs that haven't materialized yet.

- Q. That was a very long answer.
- A. Sorry.

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- Q. We're going to be here for a long time.
- A. Sorry.
- Q. That's fine. But let's give everyone an example of the kind of thing that that a tax incentive could do immediately, right? If there was a specific problem in a specific area, a tax incentive could, if designed appropriately, have the potentiality to solve that problem, right?
- A. I suppose, depending what the problem is, if it works well, if it's designed well.
- Q. Let's unpack that a little bit, right? One of the things you mentioned in your opening comments, which I certainly appreciate, is that Camden is one of the poorest cities, if not the poorest city in the nation, correct?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. And Camden was a food desert, right?
 - A. Right.

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- Q. And when I say "a food desert," was that for many years, one of the problems that Camden residents face is that they don't have a grocery store that is anywhere close.
 - A. That's a problem.
- Q. And is it fair to say, that is a particularly acute problem in the poorest communities in Camden?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So a well-designed tax incentive program could give incentives to companies to swoop in and open that grocery store.
 - A. It could.
- Q. And we're going to talk about that today. But what -- I assume that from a policy perspective, now, I'm talking -- we're going to talk policy, policy, policy today, right? I'm not talking about what the legislature intended, you know, I'm going to ask you about the act and the bill and changes to the bill.

But one thing that from a policy perspective, tax incentives are not a preparation for, they are not supposed to simply be a boon to developers, is that fair?

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- A. Boon, I would say a boon suggests over-enrichment.
 - Q. Yes.
 - A. So I would say yes.
- Q. So the first thing I want to do just to set the stage is, I want people to understand the way that the Opportunity Act was marketed, because I think that a lot of people in the broader space don't really understand that there was marketing around it, and that was not EDA's, the document I'm going to show you is not an EDA document, correct?
 - A. Um-hum.
- Q. Is it fair that is a document that was created by a developer?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Is it fair that it was created by a developer called Brandywine?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So why don't we look at tab 1 of the binder.

Can people actually read that? No, so I'm not wrong, it's not just me. So I want you to see that, I think it's on slide 6, I think we highlighted some language for you, something --

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Lizura - examination/Walden okay. So it does say that 2013 Economic Opportunity Act, and just for everyone's context, whether it's highlighted or not, that little box there, just read -- I'm going back to the microphone, sorry -- just read that language into the record, please.

MR. WALDEN: Wait, I'm sorry, can you hold for a second until -- I'm sorry, your name is?

A VOICE: Edgar.

MR. WALDEN: Until Edgar has done his work. Thank you, Edgar.

(A pause in the proceedings.)

- Q. So just from tab 1 of your binder, could you just read that whole bubble into the record under where it says, "2013 Economic Opportunity Act."
- A. "The Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 provides tax incentives to companies relocating to Camden. The amount of incentives are based on the greater of the tax credit per new job or a credit against the capital investment made by an owner. The result is that occupants may be able to obtain tax credits, 1, greater than their lease cost, or,

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Lizura - examination/Walden 2, equal to or greater than the cost of a newly constructed building over ten years."

Q. So can I ask you a couple of questions about that?

First of all, do you know if that's true? Is it actually true that the way the program works, a developer could basically get a free building or even make money above the construction costs?

- A. The tenant could. The credit didn't go to the developer. The credit always went to the business. So under the right circumstances, the tenant could pay less in rent than they received in tax credits, correct.
- Q. But I'm sorry, you may not understand this, because we all know this is not your document. But can you just help me understand what this language might mean?

"The result is that occupants may be able to obtain tax credits equal to or greater than the cost of a newly constructed building over ten years." So I take it that that is a situation where it's an occupant-constructed building?

A. Yes.

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Q. Okay. So in the circumstances of an occupant-constructed building, is it accurate that someone -- that that individual or that company

could make an amount in tax credits that exceeds the cost of the building?

A. I would think it's unlikely. I would say I guess it would depend on how you define the cost of the building. Is it just construction costs, or full development costs or land costs.

What I believe they are speaking to there is what's called The Camden Alternative, which is really a legacy Urban Transit Hub tax credit program which used to be marketed as the free building program across those eight cities.

And the tax credit award could be sized so the total eligible costs of the construction project when you're building is for a single tenant, even a multi-tenant building potentially, generally speaking, I see a lot --

- Q. I'm sorry, I'm not sure I understand the question because you see the header says, "The 2013 Economic Opportunity Act."
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. So were you saying that you thought

Page 208

Lizura - examination/Walden that this was a reference to another --

A. No, no. I'm sorry. As the Economic Opportunity Act folded five legacy programs into its bones, if you will. One of those programs was the Urban Transit Hub tax credit program. That credit -- that -- the remnants of that program were embedded in this law only for the City of Camden and we, for shorthand, we called it The Camden Alternative because every place else in the state there was a fairly straightforward -- when I say fairly straightforward in context of a 70-page law -- a base award, depending where you were, and bonuses, depending on the characteristics of the project, and it came out to a per-job award based on the characteristics.

In Camden, an applicant could self-select and ask for or apply for a award per job that was based on the amount of capital investment their project had, rather than the calculated base and bonus structure. I think we had both in Camden. The greater awards were often, and I say almost exclusively, The Camden Alternative awards, and you would get very high per-job award calculation using that model.

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So a company would build an entire
building and the cost of that building would be
allocated over ten years and it would be guided by

the number of employees. The company was still obligated to keep those employees there every year for ten years.

So if a calculation came out to be two hundred thousand dollars for an employee as an award, and there was a hundred jobs at approval, they would have to keep a hundred jobs there every year to enjoy the full benefit of the full capital allocation. If I had 190 jobs in a year, the award would be reduced for that year. So it was a capital -- it was a capital award program that would then reduce to a per-head rate.

Q. But my question, I think you clarified it, is, although you find it unlikely, it is possible under the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013, at least in the City of Camden, that a tax incentive award could exceed the cost of a building.

A. I would say that is equal to cost. I don't know how they come to exceed the cost of the building. It might be how they are defining the

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Page 210

Lizura - examination/Walden cost of the building. We would have an eligible cost and we wouldn't exceed that amount.

Q. Okay, fair enough.

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PROF. CHEN: Can I have one quick question?

MR. WALDEN: You're the boss.

PROF. CHEN: Mr. Lizura, am I understanding that that part of the program, the urban tax credit, literally applied to Camden only, or not just Camden, because it was part of what I think was known as the Garden State Growth Zone?

THE WITNESS: Camden alone. The remnants of that program which found its way into the Economic Opportunity Act was solely for the City of Camden. It would be a Garden State Growth Zone and ERB, which is a municipal economic recovery, or...

BY MR. WALDEN:

Q. This is no surprise to you, you realize that today I'm going to ask you questions about a version of the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 that was e-mailed to you.

A. Yes.

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Q. And we're going to have a discussion about that, but before I do, I just have to ask you some questions. Are you familiar with the firm, Parker McCay?

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A. I am.

Q. And did they represent the EDA in any capacity as far as you know at any time for any purpose?

A. I -- since '74 is a long time, so I would say I don't recall them doing that. You know, prior counsel -- I wasn't aware of other counsel that we had already retained.

Q. Can I make a suggestion -- I will get really close like this, I know it sounds like Darth Vader, but I think it would be just easier even for people on the live stream. I'm sure it is.

But to be clear, the EDA didn't retain Parker McCay for the purpose of helping advise it in connection with any changes or policy that it was implementing or advising on when it came to modifications to the draft of the bill.

A. We did not.

Q. And when I say the "draft of the bill," just to try to save some time, is it fair that we

Page 212

Lizura - examination/Walden both agree that the draft that we're going to be

looking at is a draft that was sent to you after the version had already passed the house and while

it was under consideration by the Senate?

PROF. CHEN: You mean the General

MR. WALDEN: I'm sorry, the General Assembly. Leave it to the Federal Government. Sorry about that.

Q. So Mr. Lizura, again, to be super, super clear, because there's lots of different reasons that this is super-important, we are not going to talk about any people that are in the legislature, we're not going to talk about their staff, we're not asking questions about any of that. All we're doing is focusing on the bill and the language and then some changes that were made by an individual named Kevin Sheehan. Do you know who Kevin Sheehan is?

A. I do.

Q. And who is he?

A. He's a lawyer for the firm of Parker

24 McCay.

Q. And as you sit there today, and I know

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I asked you this question at the interview, fair to say you didn't remember that he was editing the bill?

A. I did not remember.

Q. Okay. And you've now seen a document that, where we showed you the metadata?

A. That's right.

Q. And now I'll ask you a question, because I haven't spoken to you since then, did the metadata refresh your recollection that Sheehan was making edits to the bill?

A. The metadata reflected them making changes to the bill.

Q. My question was different. It was a lawyer's question. Sorry. When you saw it, did you say, "Oh, yeah, I remember now"?

A. I don't recall whether or not I knew at the time he was making changes to the bill.

Q. Okay, fair enough. Okay, so we're going to go through some changes, and we're going to try to keep this as high level as possible, and just in the interests of time, if you could try to really focus on the specific questions I'm asking because all it is --

Page 214 Page 215 1 Lizura - examination/Walden Lizura - examination/Walden 2 2 changes to the bill? MR. WALDEN: -- we're going to take a 3 3 pause for a second. A. I don't recall. 4 PROF. CHEN: You're going to run out 4 Q. As you sit here today, do you have any 5 5 of batteries. recollection of having phone calls or meetings 6 6 about the content of EOA 2013 with anyone that you Let me take this opportunity to thank 7 7 knew to be a lawyer at Parker McCay? all the -- all my colleagues at Rutgers Law 8 8 School for helping arranging this hearing A. I don't recall. 9 today, or my colleagues that have been for 9 Q. Okay. No telephone calls or meetings? 10 10 many years handling it. I'm just very, very A. I don't recall. 11 11 grateful, and very pleased. Q. Okay, no problem. Okay. So I first 12 Q. Okay, so, again, I just want to clarify 12 want to ask you to look at tab 2 of the binder. Do 13 13 the record, when you say that you don't have a you see that that is a cover e-mail to you and 14 14 someone else at EDA from another individual? recollection of Sheehan editing the bill, I just 15 want to ask you just a couple of follow-up 15 A. I do. 16 16 O. Who is the other individual? questions. 17 17 Do you have any recollection, for A. Colin Newman. 18 18 example, of attending telephone conferences on Can you tell us who Colin Newman is? 19 which Mr. Sheehan was a participant? 19 A. 20 2.0 Was. A. I don't -- in regard to that, I'm Q. 21 21 A. He was senior counsel in the sorry? 22 2.2 Q. It's a very fair qualification. I governor'S counsel's office. 23 meant in the context of any work you did on 23 Q. And when you -- just to be clear to set 24 24 EOH2013, do you have any recollections of phone the stage, is this the only draft of EOH2013 that 25 25 you received or did you receive several drafts calls that involved Mr. Sheehan talking about Page 216 Page 217 1 Lizura - examination/Walden 1 Lizura - examination/Walden 2 2 throughout the process? literally put the mouse over it, and so we've got a 3 3 A. I don't recall that. I don't recall. screen shot of who made the change. So you may not 4 4 I don't recall -- I don't know that I didn't. I remember who made certain changes. If you say "I 5 5 wouldn't be surprised if we did work with Colin don't remember," I'm just going to say, "Let the 6 6 along the road, but I don't know that. record reflect as displayed on the screen," it is 7 7 whoever made the change; okay? Q. What was Colin's role in this process, 8 8 as you understood it? A. Um-hum. 9 9 A. So Colin was charged with negotiating Q. I'm going to try to keep this high 10 10 level, try not to get too granular on the policy with the legislature to arrive at a piece of aspects, but I think that some of these changes are 11 11 legislation that, as I understand it, would be 12 12 important for people to understand. passable in both chambers and that was 13 13 So you see in the binder, we've now satisfactory to the governor, so he was 14 14 flagged a bunch of changes in order. effectively negotiating the release for the 15 15 A. I do. governor's office. 16 16 Q. Now, you know based on our prior Q. There's like number 1, number 2, number 17 17 conversation that I'm going to ask you about a 3 are right there. So I'm going to go through 18 those in order, so could you first look at what's 18 number of changes that were made to this. 19 marked as number 1. 19 A. Yes. 20 2.0 Q. Okay. And just so you understand, A. Yes.

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behind you on the screen what we have is a version

And on some of these, depending on where the change

exists, you can't see the metadata showing who made

of what you're looking at, an electronic version.

the change unless you put your mouse over,

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is being added here.

A. Sure.

Q. So first of all, people probably can't

see on the screen if they are like me, so why don't

we first give some background and context to what

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- Lizura examination/Walden
 Q. So I'm just going to read the provision
 in the record so you don't have to. "In addition
 to the foregoing, in a Garden State Growth Zone,
 all of the following may qualify as capital
 investment any and all redevelopment and relocation
 costs including, but not limited to, engineering,
 legal, accounting or professional services."
 That's the change to this investigation, correct?
 - A. Yes.

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Q. And then it goes on to say, "And other professional services required," and then it goes on to say, "Relocation, environmental remediation and infrastructure improvements for the project area, including but not limited to, on and off-site, utility, road, pier, whatever, bulkhead or sidewalk construction or repair."

Do you see that?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And the second part that's changed in this provision is the addition the words "pier work and bulkhead." Do you see that?
 - A. I do.
- Q. So first of all, as high level as you can, can you just help people understand why this

Lizura - examination/Walden provision matters in the context of the bill.

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- A. Sure. Actually, the bill that you -what's going on in this provision is an exchange
 of eligible capital and when a company or
 applicant is utilizing the cap -- the Camden
 alternatives for calculating the award, an
 expansion of the capital investments would allow
 them to claim a higher basis of eligible costs.
- Q. Okay. So thank you for the brevity, but let's just make sure that we understand that people understand "a higher basis of capital cost." That means more money.
- A. It does. Okay. So, well, prior to this, a capital -- qualified capital investment would be project costs that were directly attributable to the project that we approved, bricks, sticks, design, cost, that -- that other things of that nature. We would allow companies to put up to 20 percent of their hard costs.

Hard costs are a defined or industry term that was just directed to construction costs. 20 percent costs we would a allow as soft costs, soft costs being things like architects, engineers, things that are not directly hard

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Lizura - examination/Walden costs, as an eligible capital investment, investment for the purposes of our previous definition.

So this particular provision gives some specificity to what costs are actually eligible so we don't catch what's in the soft costs. And would allow us to include those in direct eligible --

- Q. But again, any -- it means more money for the applicant if they qualify.
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And they do what they're supposed to do in further requirements.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. So I just want to ask you, I see that the provision for lawyers' fees, but this second -this one provision that's added says, "Professional services." Professional services, what kinds of things would be captured by professional services?
- A. Great question. Off the top of my head, they have legal and accounting and engineering, we've already defined, right?
 - Q. Yes.
 - A. So it would be other consulting

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Lizura - examination/Walden services that are not otherwise in the -- kind of a catch-all.

- Q. Based on your experience, what are the kind of things you can think of?
- A. A traffic study. A traffic study, potentially. So, you're right, it's very --
- Q. Would it include, for example, insurance?
- A. It could include insurance for the construction, not ongoing insurance costs. So a project will have to have, from start to finish, when it gets completed, the costs stop accounting and a CPA will certify to us, to the EDA, what costs were eligible. The CPA would line up project costs, would line up definition, and then the cost for insurance could be a professional service in that category.
- Q. If it for example related to the construction of a building.
- A. Yes.
- Q. All right. Fair enough. So do you remember who added this provision?
- A. I don't -- until recently, you're showing me -- is this a --

Page 222 Page 223 1 1 Lizura - examination/Walden Lizura - examination/Walden 2 2 A. Yes, 354. Q. Okay --3 3 Q. I mean -- what I'm seeing, it is A VOICE: May I just speak with you 4 highlighted but the font is different, consistent very briefly? 5 5 MR. WALDEN: Speak to me? with what's on the screen. A VOICE: For just a moment. Sorry. 6 A. So the "pier law works and bulkhead" 7 I should have, Professor Chen -is clearly a different color. The "professional 8 8 services" looks just like the -- to me at least, PROF. CHEN: It's all right. 9 9 (A pause in the proceedings.) maybe I'm colorblind but it looks the same. 10 10 MR. WALDEN: Can I clarify that at a Q. I think that's just a printing error. 11 11 break or do you want it clarified now? I mean, I'll represent to you that I looked at the 12 (A pause in the proceedings.) 12 document in its electronic format and they were the 13 13 BY MR. WALDEN: 14 14 Q. This is just to clarify, based on your But do you have a recollection that 15 lawyer's assertion, I don't know the answer to it 15 these changes were made? 16 but apparently what's up on the screen, the line 16 A. What do you mean, made? Were put into 17 17 a document like this? numbers are different in the book. 18 18 A. Okay. Q. That during the drafting process, 19 19 Q. Regardless of the line numbers are the someone, you can't remember who, but someone added 20 changes the same? 20 professional services to soft costs, and someone 21 21 A. They are not highlighted. And they added pier work and bulkhead to the hard costs? 22 22 are not bold. With the documents you showed me 23 Q. I'm sorry, I can't see that Bates 23 earlier? 24 number, I'm sorry -- yes, I can. Is it Bates 2.4 O. Yes. 25 number 354? 25 A. Sure. I wouldn't have known that Page 224 Page 225 1 1 Lizura - examination/Walden Lizura - examination/Walden 2 2 without seeing the documents. anything about the policy behind these, so I'll 3 3 Q. Understood. All right. So can we just break them down. 4 4 now just talk about the policy implications a When you, at the point in time that you 5 5 little bit. And I know this may require a little saw that someone added professional services into 6 6 bit more explanation. But what I'm really the draft, did you agree or disagree with the 7 7 policy if you remember? interested in is, did you agree with the policy 8 8 A. I don't recollect. I don't. implications of these changes? 9 9 A. So when you say me, you mean EDA or me O. When someone added pier work and 10 10 personally? So what we would have done is, we bulkhead to hard costs, do you remember whether or 11 11 would have taken this document and when we got it, not you agreed or disagreed with the policy 12 12 we, as our senior leadership team, members of the implications that have provision? 13 13 senior staff and maybe -- we looked at all the A. I don't remember. 14 14 things and we would come to some sort of agency Q. Okay. Do you know whether or not 15 15 either of those provisions were added to benefit a opinion, which was communicated back to Colin. 16 16 What our communication was on this particular specific client of Parker McCay? 17 17 item, we said it was fine, whether we had a A. I do not. 18 18 problem with it, or if it made it into the bill, Q. I'm not saying that they were. But 19 19 we're obviously, I don't know yet, but if that was so clearly, Colin kept it in and it became law. 20 happening here, does that cause you any concern 2.0 Q. Again, I'm not asking you whether it's 21 21 good law, bad law. I'm talking about the policy's from a policy perspective in terms of, you're a 22 22 good government guy? implications and knowing human memory as I do, I am 23 A. If is -- I don't have a particular 23 really asking you to, based on your professional opinion on "if." 24 24 experience and your incredible legacy with tax 25 25 incentive programs, whether you remember thinking Q. Okay. I'll come back to that later,

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Lizura - examination/Walden with one that you remember. So let's, why don't we go to a different provision and you see that the second one that I'm going to ask you about is earlier in the paragraph. So again, I'm going to read the change into the record, I'm going to do the exact same thing that I did before, which is help you -- have you help our audience understand why the provision is relevant or important, if you think that it is, and then, talk to you about your perspectives on the policy behind it. Okay.

So this changes the definition of a capital investment to include site acquisition if purchased within 24 months prior to the project application.

Do you see that?

A. I do.

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- Q. Did I read the language accurately?
- A. You missed the last "site." Site preparation was added back, I guess.
- Q. Okay, thank you for that clarification. So let me just read it from the document itself. "A site acquisition, if purchased within 24 months prior to the project application, site," and then "preparation and construction" was already there.

Page 227

Lizura - examination/Walden So the -- from the "site acquisition if purchased within 24 months prior to project application," and then in addition to the word "site," to "preparation." Right?

- A. Yes.
- Q. First of all, help us understand why this change in capital investments is relevant.
- A. My recollection prior to this change, acquisition costs were not eligible, and this broadened the -- increased the cap -- the defined term of capital investment. So again, similar to the provision, it would allow the applicant to ask for a greater amount of award.
- Q. My colleague said you have to keep your voice up. Sorry. So I want to just unpack this a little bit, because, again, is it fair to say that this provision, the real impact of it is that there was this thing that didn't used to be added to capital investments that now could be under certain conditions?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And that would have the potential of increasing the size of the award for the applicant in this circumstance?

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- A. Yes.
- Q. And the circumstance here is site acquisition, which, do you understand that to mean buying or obtaining a property or a building or a qualified facility for your project?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So would you agree that that's a fairly significant increase in an award?
 - A. Could be.
- Q. Okay, now, there's a limitation on here. And I want to talk to you a little bit about the policy implications of this limitation in two different ways.

First of all, it says, "Site acquisition if purchased within 24 months prior to project application." But isn't -- you said this before -- isn't the whole purpose of the tax incentive program to change behavior?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And if this allows someone to significantly increase an award when they are already in Camden or wherever they are, they have already gotten a site, they have acquired it prior to their application, does that make sense from a

Page 229

Lizura - examination/Walden policy perspective?

- A. So you're asking about material factors, does it affect material factor, is that what you're basically asking? But I think there's two things. One, if you are aware of the program and you have good advice, somebody might advise you that you acquire the site and still count it as a cost when you file your application 24 months later. It's not 24 months from -- so somebody might see the law, acquire a site, and think that they can still count that acquisition -- well, can they count an acquisition in an application, they --
- Q. Let me ask you a crisper question, because everyone has just kind of heard from another person at EDA that really kind of explains the issue with respect to the significance of the decision, right?

Is it fair to say that, under any program for any -- for any city, doesn't matter if it's Jersey City, Marlton, or Camden, that if somebody's already decided to locate their project in a place, that decision is a disqualifying decision, correct?

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A. Yes. Yes.

- Q. Okay. Because under either certification, whether it's material factor or by four, they have to have been choosing between alternatives at the time.
- A. I agree. I agree. So -- and -- and as I said to you last week, this was always a challenge to administer, too, because it doesn't seem likely that you would be able to find somebody having a material factor, four-by-four, however you want to say it, after they had acquired this site.
- Q. And again, I don't want to misquote you but my recollection of what you said about this provision is, you never really understood the policy behind it.
- A. That's right. I don't think we ever approved anybody under it.
 - Q. Are you sure about that?
 - A. Oh, I am.
 - Q. Maybe we can revisit that another day.
 - A. Sure.
- Q. But let -- I want to kind of unpack the other side of this, okay? So there's a policy that

Lizura - examination/Walden says, "Okay, we're going to allow you to -- we know that you've acquired this property two years before this application, so at some level, you initiated an actual business decision to locate here." Let's not figure out how that impacts their qualification.

What I'm trying to figure out is, if I acquired the site, let's say I was a long-term Camden property owner, I've owned property for twenty years and I look at this Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 and I say to myself, "Wow, I want to double down in Camden. I want to tear down my warehouse that I've had for twenty years and I now want to build a beautiful structure that is a multiuse facility, etc."

Can I count my site acquisition costs in my Grow application?

- A. No.
- Q. But from, again, I -- we all understand these were not your changes. I'm not asking you to defend them or to disagree with them. I'm just trying to figure out, kind of understand, unpack the policy. From a policy perspective, is there a reason that you can think of to essentially

Page 232

Lizura - examination/Walden discriminate between newer owners of property and older owners of property, if in either case there's a question about material factor? Do you understand my question?

- A. Um -- the second part gives me --
- Q. I think everybody understands that for -- for any business that wanted to avail themselves of this tax policy, these tax incentive programs, they have to be evaluating a business decision. But if they already made the business decision, then they couldn't qualify for the tax credits.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. So if someone already decided, "I'm going to be in Camden," then they couldn't -- they couldn't qualify, right? Same thing for Jersey City.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Same thing for Atlantic City. Okay. So in this circumstance, this provision adds -- for me, it's unclear how it intersects with that because before the application, this envisions that two years prior, if they acquired the site two years ago, they literally closed the transaction 24

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Lizura - examination/Walden months ago, that they could include those costs despite the fact that they obviously already made a decision, right?

- A. Right.
- Q. So that's what I'm trying to ask about. Let's take two hypothetical applicants. One person closed their transaction on the building two years ago, one closed five years ago.

What is the policy reason to discriminate between those two owners in terms of their site acquisition costs being allowed to increase their award?

- A. I don't know of one.
- Q. Okay. And I didn't know where I put my glasses but now I do, so let's move on. Let me ask you this:

Do you have any reason to believe as you sit here today that this was added to benefit a specific company?

- A. I don't.
- Q. And as you said before, you can't say for sure whether it did or it didn't.
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. All right. So why don't we now go to

Page 234

Lizura - examination/Walden the third change, which I believe is on page 357. And I'm going to just describe it to save time. The definition of "a full-time employee" is modified to provide that in Camden and Atlantic City, "Any project that will include a retail facility of at least 150,000 square feet of which at least fifty percent is occupied by either a full-service supermarket or grocery store, those jobs count towards the net benefit," correct?

- A. I think they can be eligible.
- Q. They can qualify as a full-time employee. So let's try to set the stage in a simple way. Is it generally true that in most prior versions of this, retail employees are not within the kinds of jobs that will count for purposes of the tax incentive award?
- A. Yeah, I was just looking for the general restriction on point of sale -- point of sale retail jobs not being eligible.
- Q. So just help us from a policy perspective. Why, in your experience, why generally do tax incentive provisions dissuade or prohibit counting of retail jobs as full-time jobs within the meaning of the statute?

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A. So, the way they described that in the past is that generally speaking retailers don't make decisions the same way corporate headquartered businesses do. They make decision on the viability of the retail opportunity, meaning is there a market to sell into at that location. And tax policy and tax incentives don't shape that decision in a material way, in a way that these laws support.

Did I answer your question?

- Q. You did answer my question. Thank you very much. So in other words, because retail locations are more driven by market forces than tax incentives, that's why they are excluded.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And is it fair to understand this as an exception to the rule for a certain kind of project?
- A. I view it as an exception and expansion of the program.
 - Q. An expansion of the program.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. But with all expansions of the program there are choices to be made, right?

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- Lizura examination/Walden
- A. Um-hum.

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- Q. Now, one choice that could have been made that's not reflected in this change, and by the way, do you recall who it was that made this change?
 - A. I don't.
 - Q. All right.

MR. WALDEN: Just note for the record that again it was Kevin Sheehan at Parker McCay.

- Q. One version of the change could be for Camden, any grocery store counts, even one that's smaller than 75,000 square feet, right?
 - A. True.
- Q. Based on the needs of the low-income population in Camden, would it have been sensible tax policy to include a provision that allowed a stand-alone grocery store of five thousand square feet or 20,000 square feet or 60,000 square feet to enjoy benefits from the tax incentives?
 - A. You can make an argument for that.
- Q. Okay. So let me just make sure I unpack this. First of all, again, just in terms of what you remember, do you remember that this change

Page 237

Lizura - examination/Walden was made to the bill as you were viewing it?

- A. I do.
- Q. Did you agree with it or disagree with it?
 - A. We thought it was an okay policy.
- Q. Okay. But it's really specific, right? You have to have, it's not just supermarkets, right? Make sure I read this correctly. "A retail facility of at least 150,000 square feet of which fifty percent is a full service supermarket or grocery."

So what -- why is there -- in an area -- because this applied to Camden, right?

- A. And Atlantic City.
- Q. And Atlantic City. Why is there a possible incentive to limit in a place where it needs food, so limit it to a retail facility where only fifty percent of it is grocery store as opposed to something else? What's the policy reason for that?
- A. I don't know -- I don't know necessarily what their policy was, but when we looked at it now, a full service grocery store is in that range of a other anywhere from 60 to a

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Lizura - examination/Walden thousand square feet is -- a full service grocery store. I think one of the full service grocery stores -- so it didn't offend us that that was the provision that was there, so -- and we weren't necessarily negotiating this provision, right, we were -- we weren't negotiating the provision. So my recollection is, we didn't take that exception to it.

- Q. Do you remember, Mr. Lizura, whether there was a discussion in the EDA when this provision was added, where anyone took the view that maybe we should just be allowing a grocery story for Camden and Atlantic City regardless of whether it was fifty percent of a larger retail project?
 - A. I don't recall.

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- Q. You don't recall. Okay. And I'm sorry if I asked you this before. Did you know whether or not this provision was intended to benefit a specific project that you were aware of?
 - A. No. Not that I recall.
- Q. And for this one, do you recall that there had been a proposal by another company in an earlier program that had sunset, that was still in

Page 239

Lizura - examination/Walden the works at the time of this change, where they were proposing a 75,000 foot stand-alone Shoprite? Were you aware of that at the time?

- A. I don't recall being aware of that. But this is the Randy Cherkas project you were mentioning to me?
- Q. I wasn't going to mention his name, but that's fine. At the time that this provision came in, did you know that Cherkas was still working on a proposal for a stand-alone grocery store in Camden?
 - A. I don't recall.
- Q. But if that grocery store was not part of a retail facility of 150,000 square feet, this provision would have effectively killed that deal?
- A. Well, this provision wouldn't apply to that deal. This provision wouldn't support that. Wouldn't --
- Q. So again, from a tax incentive perspective, right, that sort of project, right, a 75,000 foot stand-alone grocery store, which is all you're getting from this, plus the retail, but that sort of project would not be allowed to count its jobs as full-time employees within the meaning of

Page 240

alden

Lizura - examination/Walden the act.

- A. Correct.
- Q. So if tax incentives were a material part of the incentive to go with that project, the 75,000 foot stand-alone grocery store, this provision would kill that project.
- A. We would not be able to advance that project further.
- Q. Okay. Why don't we go to number 4. And again, this adds language to the section --hold on one second, Mr. Lizura.

Okay, this is also a modification of "full-time employee," I think, unless I'm wrong here.

- A. No, it's I think it's a megaproject definition.
- Q. Okay. So this is -- I apologize, so this is -- I'm going to ask you this in a second but what we're about to read modifies the definition of something that's called a megaproject. And is it fair to say that the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 provided additional incentives to what was a megaproject?
 - A. It provided a different set, an

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Lizura - examination/Walden increased set of incentives to projects that were not otherwise in a Growth Zone or another community that made it like --

- Q. Can you repeat your answer?
- A. That would make it like a Garden State Growth Zone.
- Q. Okay. So the language that's added here is, "Or a qualified business facility located in a priority area housing the United States headquarters and related facilities of an automobile manufacturer."
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you remember that this change was made?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Do you recall who made it?
- A. I do not.

MR. WALDEN: For the record according to the metadata it was Kevin Sheehan at Parker McCay.

- Q. What was your understanding of this change? Why was it added?
- A. It would provide business that meets the standard of a headquarters, resident quarters

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Lizura - examination/Walden of a big impact to get a treatment like a growth zone if it was going to apply for priority. So priority zones had caps, benefits, and a megaproject increased those. So qualified people could get a bigger award if it was still a priority award and a --

- Q. At the time that you saw this provision, were you aware of the fact that there was a specific company that some folks were trying to get to relocate to New Jersey?
 - A. I don't know that I was aware of it.
 - O. You don't remember --
 - A. I don't recall that I was aware of it.
- Q. Do you recall that there was an efforts to attract a company called Subaru?
- A. To retain -- to retain Subaru, yes, I don't recall when that process started.
- Q. Do you know whether or not this provision was added for a specific company?
 - A. I do not.

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Q. And during the course of time that you were discussing this, was there any discussion within EDA about the propriety of having what I'm going to call special-purpose legislation? Do you

Page 243

Lizura - examination/Walden know what I mean by special-purpose legislation?

- A. I do.
- Q. Explain for us what it is.
- A. It's a colloquial term that's used from time to time, that lawyers use, that would describe a certain kind of legislation.
- Q. But is it the kind of legislation that benefits a single person or company?
 - A. That's what I'm trying to say.
- Q. And do you know whether or not that is Constitutionally permissible or not?
 - A. I believe it's not.
- Q. It's not. Okay. So I'm going to go to number 5. So again, just for the sake of time, the definition of "Transit-Oriented Development" was modified to include, for projects located in a Garden State Growth Zone qualified business facilities, "Located within a one-mile radius surrounding the midpoint of a New Jersey Transit Corporation, Port Authority Transit Corporation, or Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation rail, bus or ferry station platform area, including all light rail stations." That's quite a specific change.
 - A. This may have been what was in the

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Lizura - examination/Walden transit hub.

- Q. Do you remember who it was that added this?
 - A. I did not.

MR. WALDEN: Just for the record, it was Colin Newman. Sorry, my apologies.

- Q. Did you agree with this from a policy perspective?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Why, just explain to us, and try to use, if you don't mind, try to break it down simply because the language even for a lawyer like me is a bit impenetrable. It's basically if you're located in a particular area that has certain transit --
- A. Facilities. So we had, as a good policy, we were trying to incent development in and around train stations --
- Q. And this would support that. So are you aware of whether or not there was a specific company that needed this change?
 - A. I would not.
- Q. I want to just call out the change because in the prior version of the bill, right, the other language about the transit-oriented hub,

Page 245

Lizura - examination/Walden etc., was there. The only change in this bill -- I'm just going to call it up here, give me one second -- so prior to this addition, do you agree that the language said, "Transit-oriented development means a qualified business facility located within a half-mile radius surrounding train stations"?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And this provision changed that because it said, "Transit-Oriented development means a qualified business facility located within a half-mile radius," new language, "Or one mile radius for projects located in a Garden State Growth Zone."
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So, again, is this -- what would be the policy reasons for expanding from a half-mile to a mile for Garden State Growth Zones?
- A. What I would say is that Garden State growth zones being the most depressed cities in those categories, throughout this bill things were targeted to expand the eligibility and expand, you know, the -- the qualifications and requirements for those locations and this would be a benefit

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Lizura - examination/Walden

Page 247

Lizura - examination/Walden to -- more sites become eligible.

2 Q. Okay. Now, were there provisions as 3 far as you knew in the Economic Opportunity Act of 4 2013 that allowed, for example, companies moving 5 into the same building or companies that were all part of the same building project, were they 7 allowed to aggregate their jobs for the purposes of

O. So in other words, there's a bigger area where a locale that's struggling economically, even if it's a mile away, you want to incent that development.

> achieving the thousand-dollar threshold? A. I don't believe so.

A. Yes, sir.

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MR. WALDEN: And, if I said this already, just for the record, Kevin Sheehan made this change.

Q. Okay, why don't we go to number 6. So this provision, if you look at number 6, added an increase in tax credits if the number of new full-time jobs is in excess of one thousand, it increases the award to \$1,500 per year?

> Q. Okay, so let's go to number 7. Actually, you know what? I'm sorry. Oh, yes, okay. So the language was added --

A. Correct.

15 16 MR. WALDEN: -- excuse me, one second. 17

Q. And that's \$1,500 per year per job. A. Correct.

> (A pause in the proceedings.) Q. So I believe this is a modification of

Q. Can you please explain for us the policy implications behind this change.

> the definition of qualified projects. 20 A. That's bonuses. It's --

A. There was -- there's a belief as you can see through the whole thing that larger job projects have more economic impact to the region. So better to attract a company with a thousand more jobs than five hundred jobs. So the bill allowed for bonuses on top of the base award one

Q. I'm sorry, you're right. I was looking at the wrong provision. Okay. So the bonuses added here, if I could just read it, "For a project located within a half-mile of any light rail

that would increase a total award based on the number of new jobs and...

station constructed after the effective date of

Page 248

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Lizura - examination/Walden this act, an increase of \$2,000 per year," is that correct?

A. That's correct.

O. Is that a bonus of two thousand dollars per year per job?

A. Right.

Q. So would you agree with me that this is one of the biggest bonuses in the Economic Opportunity Act of 2013?

A. It is. Q. What is the policy behind only including companies that are located within a half-mile of any light rail station to be

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constructed in the future? A. I'm not sure.

Q. Did you understand the policy behind this change when you read it?

A. I don't recall.

Q. Do you recall who added this?

A. I don't.

MR. WALDEN: Let the record reflect it was Kevin Sheehan.

Q. Now, let me just ask you this: As you sit here now, do you know whether or not any

Lizura - examination/Walden company was able to take advantage of this provision?

A. I don't recall that.

O. You don't recall.

A. I don't recall.

Q. Do you recall whether Holtec was able to take advantage of this provision?

A. Holtec uses the capital investment alternative.

Q. We may have to revisit that with you. I know we're not prepared for Holtec, so, for another day.

Could you go to 8 now, please. This says it's another modification of bonus. And then it says, "For a marine terminal project with the municipality located outside the Garden State Growth Zone but within the geographical boundaries of the port" -- I'm sorry, "The South Jersey Port District, an increase of \$1,500 per year, and that's \$1,500 per year per job.

A. Correct.

Q. Do you recall what the policy was behind this project?

A. I do not.

Page 250 Page 251 Lizura - examination/Walden Lizura - examination/Walden 2 2 O. Do you agree with it? A. Sure. 3 3 A. I don't have a feeling about it. Q. I'm going to read the language into the 4 Q. Doesn't it seem like an oddly specific 4 record because I'm not really sure that you can see 5 5 it on the screen. Is it on the screen? No. Okay. thing to add to a tax incentive bill, in your experience? 6 Doesn't matter. Let me just read it into the 7 7 A. Not necessarily. I mean, the bill is record. 8 8 targeted geographically, so they are targeted, "This particular e-mail is from an 9 9 just like we said at the beginning, to incent individual at EDA to Colin Newman and you, copied 10 10 people to invest in the particular location. I to another person on September 9th of 2014. And 11 don't know where that is, per se. I mean, I 11 the language says, "No, I believe it follows the 12 doesn't surprise me. 12 intent of the act to include the 'phantom tax 13 notion' for the NBT that Phil," and another person 13 Q. All right. Listen, I'm going to ask 14 you about another exchange that is reflected in a 14 that I won't name, "laid out in the original bill 15 different document. So if you can, can you just go 15 draft." Do you see that? 16 to tab 3 of your binder. 16 A. I do. 17 17 A. Um-hum. As you sit there now, do you know who O. 18 18 O. Do you see the document? Phil is? 19 19 A. I do. A. I assume that's Phil Norcross. 20 Q. Do see that this is a back-and-forth 20 Q. In any event, do you remember whether 21 21 between, among other people, you and Colin Newman? or not Phil Norcross was having input into the bill 22 22 A. Yes. draft that we were just reviewing a couple of 23 Q. Does that refresh your recollection 23 minutes ago? 2.4 2.4 that there were lots of correspondence around this A. I don't recall. 25 25 time concerning different provisions? Q. You don't recall. Page 252 Page 253 1 1 Lizura - examination/Walden Lizura - examination/Walden 2 2 different depending on the location in the state, 3 3 the industry, the types of jobs, the salaries, and Q. And do you know as you sit there today, 4 4 what role, if any, Phil Norcross played in "the a bunch of different inputs. 5 5 original bill draft"? We used a federally-produced system 6 6 called RIMS to calculate economic output. A. No. 7 7 Q. So can you, do you remember and can you Q. I'm sorry, this is -- I completely 8 8 explain to us -- I don't want to go through the understand everything you're saying, but would it 9 9 document, it would take too long, and I'd like to be okay if I just asked you some leading questions 10 get you off the stand by 4:15. Can you explain to 10 and if I'm wrong, correct me? Just so that I can 11 us, do you have a recollection of this whole 11 try in the interests of time? 12 phantom tax issue? 12 A. We're getting close. 13 13 Q. No problem. It's not that you're A. I do. 14 14 taking too long. It's that it's really Q. Can you explain it to us? 15 15 A. I can, and I apologize. The NBT complicated. So there was a simpler way to explain 16 16 stands for net benefit test. Net benefit test is it, but if you want to keep going, I don't want to 17 17 an economic input/output line which we designed in cut you off. 18 18 conjunction with Jones Lang LaSalle. And it was a A. So with that output, we were 19 test that we used to satisfy the provisions of the 19 projecting the amount of revenue the state would 20 20 law that every project must have at least 110 get in lieu of taxes. So at the end of the day, 21 21 percent net benefit test except in the City of that law was used to try to line up the benefits 22 Camden where it's a hundred percent. 22 of a project versus the costs of the tax credits.

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And what it does is, it's designed to

project the economic activity for a particular

investment in a project. And that would be

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A. Correct.

Q. So NBT is just a way to determine

whether the state's getting a good ideal?

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Lizura - examination/Walden

- Q. And good deal in Camden is defined as paying for itself?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And a good deal everywhere else in the state is defined as a ten percent profit.
 - A. At least.
- Q. Now, how do phantom taxes -- well, first of all, what is a phantom tax?
- A. It's a made-up term that we use to describe in the Economic Opportunity Act the provision that exempted projects from property taxes and other taxes and there are other laws in -- UEZ and other laws that exempted projects from paying taxes.

And the -- the connection was working closely with the Attorney General office, which is the reference here, is that the law allowed that we could count back those taxes that were otherwise exempted in the calculation of the net benefit test, so that companies could get the benefit from the program to incent their investment in the City.

Q. Okay. But can you explain -- can I ask you a leading question?

Lizura - examination/Walden

- A. Sure.
- Q. And again, I'm asking about -- what I'm concerned about or curious about is tax policy. That's what I care about, right? So my question to you from a tax policy perspective is, do I understand this that this essentially allows the program applicant to count costs that they really don't pay?

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- A. That they can count in the benefit of the project that they don't pay.
- Q. So in other words, it is a way in a sense to artificially inflate the benefit to the state, so that they pass or surpass the net benefit that's required depending on where you are.
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. Whose idea was that?
- A. I don't recall.
 - Q. Do you remember whether or not that was proposed by someone from Parker McCay?
 - A. I don't recall that.
 - Q. I understand that the Attorney General signed off. Obviously, I am not asking you for -- because the Attorney General is the lawyer for the EDA, right?

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Lizura - examination/Walden

- Lizura examination/wal
- A. Yes.
- Q. So I'm not asking you and I didn't mean to elicit that you sought legal advice on this. I'm asking you a different question.

Did this one concern you enough that you wanted to seek legal advice on it?

- A. We did seek legal advice, so I don't know how it's a concern -- we sought legal advice on a lot of things. It was certainly a, not standard fare, right? So it isn't standard fare in -- so because we wanted to make sure we were on legal footing, we asked the Attorney General, so --
- Q. All right. So I'm going to ask you the question again because I'm not sure that you answered it. I'm sure you're trying. I'm talking about you, Tim Lizura, reading this provision. You remember this provision, right?
 - A. I do.
- Q. So my question is, when you read it, did it seem to you like this stepped over a line?
- A. I have to tell you, no, I understand -- the intent of the law was to get people to invest in the City of Camden, right? So

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Lizura - examination/Walden if you had a provision in the law which undercuts the ability to get people to do that by inadvertently having this kind of disconnect, that while you could get to a place where phantom tax makes sense. So I understand the -- I understand the notion of it, and I understand why in the context of Camden, you were doing this.

- Q. But in the context of Camden, essentially, do I understand this to be an exception to the net benefit test? This essentially allowed projects to get through even though they weren't paying for themselves.
- A. I would say that's a pretty accurate statement.
- Q. Do you know how many different companies advantaged themselves by the phantom tax provisions of the law?
 - A. I don't know how many.
 - Q. Do you know of any as you sit here now?
- A. I recall we had projects that took advantage of it.
- Q. Do you recall any of the projects as you sit there now?
 - A. I would expect that the projects that

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Lizura - examination/Walden used the capital investment alternative would be the ones that would be the ones that --

- Q. But do you remember any of those as you sit here?
 - A. Yes, sure.
 - Q. Who?

- A. Holtec, The Sixers, American Water, Subaru, Connor Strong, Michaels. NFI.
- Q. Okay. So I'm going to ask you a different question. Do you know whether or not Parker McCay represents all those companies?
- A. I recall they represent some, some role in most of those.
- Q. So what does it say to you about, again, we're talking about this material factor requirement, meaning I'm actually making a choice, right? I'm making a choice to either go to Camden or go somewhere else.

We're going to get to this in a minute, but what does it say to you about material factor if in fact, a law firm was put -- I'm not saying this happened, but a law firm was putting in changes for specific companies into the bill? Would that be an indicator? Page 259

Lizura - examination/Walden

You're a very experienced guy, you supervised the underwriting department. If you knew that information when you were vetting an application, "By the way, I just want to be honest with you, our lawyer put this provision in for us," would that have an impact on your view of whether or not the business decision had been made by the time the act was passed by the legislature?

A. No.

Q. All right. So I have two more subjects to talk to you about, and I'm going to do you a huge favor which is, you know that there's one issue with respect to material factor that, where your perspective is different than what we've heard from other people, so I want to try to tease that out in a leading way if you don't mind, and I will be faithful to what you told me, but just, we have one more witness and I don't want to keep people past 5 o'clock if we can get around it.

So we heard testimony today that, as the EDA was administering the program for businesses relocating in-state to Camden, say they were going from Jersey City or wherever they were coming from to Camden. We heard testimony today

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Lizura - examination/Walden that EDA required that they show that the jobs were at risk, and that they submit proof that an out-of-state location was bona fide, suitable and available. I think that's it.

MR. WALDEN: Chairman, a fair summary of the testimony? Okay.

Q. And so we looked back at every Camden application since this bill came into law, to today, and there were 32 and of those 32 -- I'm sorry, 31, correct? I'm sometimes wrong, there are 31 applications and of those 31 applications there were 30 of them, I'm talking about applications where there was an in-state move to Camden, from Marlton or -- thirty of them that actually said that the jobs were at risk and they were considering an out-of-state location, and one of them said they were going to eliminate jobs in Camden, which is a completely different thing, right, because it qualifies under a different part of the statute, right? Okay.

So the testimony that we heard today aligns with the reality that all projects moving to Camden actually did say jobs are at risk.

Now, you have a perspective on why that

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Lizura - examination/Walden happened, is that true?

A. Yes.

- Q. Am I correct in saying that in your interpretation, the statute itself does not require for those kinds of projects that they actually show an out-of-state location?
- A. My interpretation and guidance from the Attorney General office.
- Q. Again, you're not at the EDA anymore so you can't waive the privilege. So please stop saying what the Attorney General advised on. We'll talk to the EDA about whether or not they will waive the privilege and allow us some factfinding around that.
 - A. Okay.
- Q. So put that aside. I'm just, I'm talking about your interpretation and I'm going to try to figure out why there seems to be two different interpretations of this within EDA. But you had -- even though it was not a requirement, in your view, statute, whether the Attorney General agreed or not, you offered a practical reason why companies would have a motivation to consider out-of-state alternatives and include that in the

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Lizura - examination/Walden

- Lizura examination/Walden application anyway. A. Yes.
- Q. So now I've done my leading. Can you explain that to us?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Thank you.
- A. My recollection of whether it met the net benefit test was, the net benefit test was a statewide test, and that would suggest, or that would then require that the jobs would be at risk of leaving New Jersey in order to include economic impact of those jobs under the net benefit test. If there was not a risk of leaving the state, we would include all the other drivers of the net benefit test except the economic activity from the employees, which is largest driver of the economic output.
- Q. I just want to pause there for a second because you just said something that's important, and I'll tell you why in a second. But from your experience, the job credit that one gets is the largest part of an award.
 - A. On the net benefit test.
 - Q. On the net benefit test. Go ahead.

- 2 A. So for practical purposes, if you 3 wanted -- if you needed to maximize the award in 4 order to make a decision to move to the City of 5 Camden, you would have to show the out-of-state 6 location and that would then -- that would then 7 allow you to satisfy the net benefit test 8 provision.
 - Q. So is this another way of saying, in your view, if you're moving jobs in-state to Camden, you get no credit on the net benefit test for the jobs?
 - A. Without an out-of-state -- without an at-risk finding.
 - Q. When you say "at-risk finding," meaning the jobs are at risk of leaving the state.
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. Okay. Now, so regardless of the motivation that caused these applicants to put on the application that there was an at-risk finding, and that they were considering a location, what are the consequences if there was a company that was making it up, they really did not evaluate another location, they just found another place, to just put it on the application, they did no diligence to

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Lizura - examination/Walden determine whether it was bona fide, it was suitable, whether it was available in reality, what's the consequences of that?

- A. So my impression of that would be that there were filing false documentation with a government entity which is bad.
- Q. I appreciate your perspective. I asked a poor question, and I'm sorry, I'll rephrase it. From the perspective of the award, if someone was applying for a tax incentive award, and an underwriter uncovered this in the context of vetting the application, what are the consequences for the applicant in the hypothetical that I described?
- A. If we on the board couldn't make a finding of at-risk, then the net benefit test would be -- the net benefit test would be dramatically reduced and the award would be dramatically reduced.
- Q. Again, I apologize in the same way, my questions are getting less crisp. But what I think I was asking was, if an underwriter actually discovered evidence of fraud, would that just reduce the award or would that disqualify the

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Lizura - examination/Walden applicant?

- A. Oh, disqualify the applicant, and we would refer that to appropriate channels.
- O. And from your recollection during your time there, did that ever happen?
 - A. It did.
- Q. That was a new question that I didn't ask you before, so I may follow up with you afterwards on that hypothetical.

Okay, so just for the last question on this, I'm going to ask you the unfair question. You don't even know who it was that probably testified -- can you help us understand why there appear to be two different interpretations within the EDA, one that suggests that an adverse designation is required to every single applicant no matter where in the state they are, and your interpretation, which is that a net benefit test requires it, or at least strongly motivates it, but it's not a requirement?

A. Sure. My exception so that is, it's an extraordinarily complicated program and there are a lot of shorthand -- shortcuts to describe how things work, whether they be

Page 266 Page 267 1 Lizura - examination/Walden Lizura - examination/Walden 2 2 colloquialisms to describe things, or kind of thousand approvals, 30 for Camden, one for 3 3 Atlantic City, this topic doesn't come up that practical answers to questions. So for -- if I 4 was a staff person working in the field, I would 4 much. So -- and I would not take umbrage to my 5 5 colleagues taking a shortcut in that in the way of not get into that level of detail, because why 6 make it more complicated? When we make it an 6 describing it. 7 7 extraordinarily complicated program --Q. Okay. That was very clear, thank you 8 8 Q. As the prior COO, let me just ask you very much, appreciate it. So I just have one more 9 9 topic for you, add then we'll see if the chairman this question from an administrative perspective. The EDA had authority to administer the program, 10 10 has any questions for you. 11 11 Again, I'm doing to try to streamline correct? 12 12 this if I can. A. Correct. 13 13 Q. If the EDA was telling people it's While you were there, do you recall 14 14 that there was the employee named David Sucsuz who required, you have to show that the jobs are at 15 risk, you have to show that you are considering an 15 filed an EEOC complaint? 16 16 A. I do. alternate location, that's important, right? 17 17 Whether or not the statute required it or not, my Q. Do you recall that that complaint 18 question is, did the EDA have authority in order to 18 alleged discrimination? 19 interpret the statute to make this a requirement? 19 A. I do. 20 A. We can't -- no, we could not change 20 Q. And is it fair to say that Mr. Sucsuz 21 21 the law to do that. And I think you're aware that was eventually terminated? 22 22 A. Yes, fair to say. there was one company that we did approve, not in 23 Camden, that availed themselves of that provision 23 Q. And fair to say that the person that 24 24 for a different Garden State Growth Zone that investigated the discrimination allegation found 25 25 didn't make that assertion. So in the world of a that there was no nexus between the conduct that he Page 268 Page 269 1 1 Lizura - examination/Walden Lizura - examination/Walden 2 was alleging and his termination? 2 Q. And it was an active litigation that 3 A. I believe that's true. was going on including the trial -- you weren't 4 O. Okay. So, and did you also become there the whole time, but -aware while you were there that, subsequent to his 5 A. I was there the whole time. termination, Mr. Sucsuz filed a complaint that made 6 Q. Oh, you were, I'm sorry. During an 7 new allegations? audit that the comptroller was doing? 8 A. I was. A. Ask me the question? 9 Q. Did you read his complaint? Q. The litigation was active and ongoing A. I don't recall reading his complaint. 10 even during 2018 when the comptroller was doing an Q. Okay. Do you recall whether or not the 11 audit? 12 A. The beginning of the audit, yes.

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 complaint made new allegations about specific 13 instances of potential fraud and misconduct at the 14 EDA? 15 A. I'm aware of that now. 16 Q. You weren't aware of that at the time? 17 A. I don't recall. It's speculative, but 18 I don't recall. 19 Q. Okay. But during the time that you 20 were there, were you aware that your boss, Michelle 21 Brown, was deposed?

Q. Were you aware that others at the EDA

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A. Yes.

were deposed?

A. Yes.

audit? A. I don't recall the conversation. O. You don't recall a conversation at all?

A. No.

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Q. Do you recall knowing that the comptroller asked during a kickoff meeting whether or not there was any pending or settled litigation that involved a former employee making allegations

Q. Now, my question to you is this: Do

senior leadership team with Fred Cole about whether

you recall a conversation among anyone in the

or not Mr. Cole should disclose the existence of

this litigation to the comptroller during the

Lizura - examination/Walden
of fraud?
A. I don't recall necessarily that
specific request.
Q. Just -- I know I don't usually pick at

- Q. Just -- I know I don't usually pick at your answers, but what do you mean when you say you don't necessarily --
 - A. I don't recall that.

- Q. Do you recall a question like it?
- A. No, I don't recall particulars of the things that may have been asked for in that -- in that meeting at this time.
- Q. Okay. So are you aware as you sit here now that that complaint was never disclosed to the comptroller during the audit?
- A. I know that now. I don't know that firsthand.
- Q. So I'm going to ask you again kind of the unfair question. Do you know how that happened? Do you have any insight, having been there in a senior level position, with litigation that is unique, and executives are getting literally deposed, there's a trial going on and somehow that information is requested by the comptroller and not disclosed?

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Lizura - examination/Walden

- A. I'm not sure of the question, but I do not know how it happened. I think your question was, how does it happen. It -- in my time -- so to be very specific, while I was there at the beginning of the audit, I was not there when the audit kicked into full gear or when it ended.
- Q. Oh, I'm sorry. That was my understanding before, you said he you were there the whole time.
- A. I was there the whole time for the Sucsuz lawsuit. So if Sucsuz's lawsuit was settled -- not settled, it was, what's the term, a verdict?
 - Q. There was a verdict.
- A. There was a verdict on the Sucsuz lawsuit while I was there. So the lawsuit was ended, and the judge ruled in our favor, the jury ruled in our favor --
 - Q. Yes.
 - A. That was the end of that lawsuit.
- Q. Just slow down a little bit. I think he may be having trouble.
- A. All right. My last day was in the middle of July, and I announced my -- that I was

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Lizura - examination/Walden retiring in June so I had to become less engaged in those sort of things. The audit kicked in further then, so I was not there for most of that audit.

Q. So then, I wouldn't even ask you that if I couldn't remember your termination date, so I apologize for that, but I thought you were saying you were there the whole time. So let me change the subject, then, and then we'll be done, unless the chairman has any questions. So here's my question:

You were there for the whole verdict.

Do you remember that the jury actually returned a verdict saying that Sucsuz had a reasonable basis to believe that EDA personnel had violated the law? Were you aware of that?

- A. I was not aware of that.
- Q. All right. So help us understand this:
 We heard testimony earlier today from someone who does remember the allegations, reviewed the complaint, took notes of it all, and his statement was that to this day, there's never been an investigation within EDA to determine whether or not those specific allegations are true or not.

Lizura - examination/Walden

- A. I believe that to be true.
- Q. Okay. But why?
- A. My assessment of why?
- Q. Yes. And maybe --
- A. Maybe it's bad on me, having been the COO. But through the entire -- we gave no credibility to the allegations that Mr. Sucsuz was making. We had our opinion was that it was -- it was without complete merit and they we didn't do it, there wasn't anything to investigate.
- Q. I understand that, I understood that from when you were interviewed, but here's the part that I don't understand. If you take that perspective and you say, "This guy's a liar, right? Everything he says is untrue," knowing that the case is going to have to be tried, wouldn't you want to do an internal investigation so that you could show that all of the specific -- because he mentions specific companies and very specific issues. But to demonstrate that the specific allegations were untrue and then you could impeach him when he testified?
- A. We clearly didn't think that was important to do. We didn't do it.

Page 274 Page 275 1 Lizura - examination/Walden Lizura - examination/Chen 2 2 Q. Okay. So now, help us understand this. necessarily, outside of the conversation. 3 3 Was there actually a decision where someone, where O. Okay. But in the conversations that 4 this issue was considered, the senior leadership 4 you had, do you remember anyone raising the issue 5 5 team said, "Hey listen, we have got a crisis on our of, "Maybe we should investigate this so that we 6 hands, we've got this lawsuit that's now accusing 6 can prove that it's not true"? 7 7 us of fraud, we need to figure out if we're going A. No, we didn't. 8 8 to do an internal investigation," I don't want to O. No --9 9 go on too long -- is this the only time in your A. I don't recall a conversation like 10 10 22-year career anything like this ever happened? that. 11 11 Q. So you don't have a recollection of a 12 Q. Okay, was there a crisis management 12 specific person saying, "No, don't do an 13 13 meeting after it was filed and it was reported in investigation." 14 14 the press? A. Correct. 15 A. So, I don't want to completely 15 Q. Okay. 16 16 minimize this. We talked about it at senior PROF. CHEN: I just have a question, 17 17 leadership team meetings, the status of the more of terminology in my mind. 18 lawsuit, we considered his various proposals for 18 **EXAMINATION BY** 19 payment option and we discounted any of those 19 PROF. CHEN: 20 options. So we discussed the lawsuit. And that 20 Q. You referred to several parts of the 21 21 was to the extent of my recollection. programs that are Camden-specific. 22 22 I say that with the fact that I know A. Yes. 23 our senior vice-president of operations, Fred 23 Q. There are other parts of programs --24 24 Cole, he was charged with running point on this parts of the New Jersey program that apply special 25 lawsuit. So I don't know what he did, 25 rules and requirements to any of the cities that Page 276 Page 277 1 1 Lizura - examination/Chen Lizura - examination/Chen 2 are within the Garden State Growth Zone? 2 eligible for, and they could opt into, and 3 3 A. Correct. I'm not sure that phantom tax was embedded 4 4 O. And that would be Camden, Trenton in that section of the law, I don't want to 5 5 Paterson and Passaic? state --6 6 A. Passaic. **EXAMINATION BY** 7 7 Q. And I think for another reason, PROF. CHEN: 8 8 Atlantic City is also included in another piece of Q. What about the part of the statute that 9 9 legislation. limits the program, and the one I was looking at is 10 10 the material factor requirement that you were A. Correct. 11 11 talking with Mr. Walden before, earlier, that Q. When you were talking about the Urban 12 12 refers to projects in the Garden State Growth Zone Transit Hub tax credit, and when you were talking a 13 13 that qualified as a MRERA, M-R-E-R-A? moment ago that, with Mr. Walden, about the phantom 14 14 tax issue, those were Camden-significant. A. Correct. 15 15 Q. Do you know what MRERA refers to? A. Camden, correct. 16 A. I do. 16 Q. And so the other cities that were part 17 17 of the Garden State Growth Zone would not be O. What is that? 18 A. I mentioned in my opening remarks, 18 eligible for growth --19 A. Correct. 19 Municipal Economic Recovery Act. 2.0 Q. A specific act passed by the 2.0 Q. -- off the tax records. Okay. 21 21 MR. WALDEN: You know, Chairman, I legislature. Do you have an understanding of to 22 22 which city or cities that act applies? don't want to say that the -- I can't say 23 A. The only city that I'm aware that 23 for sure it was only Camden phantom tax, 24 applied to was the City of Camden. 24 because the property tax exception portion 25 25 of the bill was -- all growth zones were Q. Would it be fair to say that when

Page 278 Page 279 1 1 Lizura - examination/Chen McCoy - examination/Patel 2 2 legislation uses the term "Garden State Growth the influence and the involvement of the many 3 3 Zone," that qualifies as a MRERA, that that is stakeholders and policy experts that were involved 4 generally understood only to refer to the City of 4 in the design and passage of the Economic 5 5 Opportunity Act, so we're hoping that your policy Camden? 6 A. No -- sorry, yes, yes, yes. Yes. 6 background and your experience at New Jersey Policy 7 7 Q. And that would be the understanding Perspectives can help let us know a little bit 8 8 within EDA that that is short of a term of art or about that process. So can you please explain your 9 9 educational and policy background for us? shorthand term for Camden. 10 10 A. Yes. A. Sure. I have a Bachelor's degree from 11 11 The College of New Jersey in sociology, a Master's PROF. CHEN: Thank you. degree from the Edward J. Bloustein School of 12 MR. WALDEN: Thank you for all the 12 13 Community and Public Policy at Rutgers in urban 13 time we spent beforehand and today. 14 14 planning and public policy, and I have worked as a (Whereupon, the witness was excused.) 15 BRANDON McCOY, having been first 15 public policy analyst at New Jersey Policy 16 16 Perspective for almost five years now. duly sworn, was examined and testified as 17 17 Q. And in what capacity do you work for follows: 18 18 New Jersey Policy Perspective? **EXAMINATION BY** 19 19 MS. PATEL: A. I started as a economic policy analyst 20 20 focusing on economic security issues, things like Q. Good afternoon, Mr. McCoy. 21 21 the minimum wage and paid sick leave, and then I A. How are you? 22 2.2 became the director of government and public Q. Like the chairman, I thank for you your 23 patience and staying here with us today. I'm 23 affairs, and as of March 1st, I'm now the 2.4 24 asking, as Prof. Chen explained before, one of the president. 25 25 things that we're trying to better understand is Q. And Mr. McCoy, what exactly is New Page 281 Page 280 1 1 McCoy - examination/Patel McCoy - examination/Patel 2 2 years which has increased significantly in size Jersey Policy Perspective? More specifically, what 3 3 kinds of research projects do you and your time and scale. 4 4 tackle? Q. I want to talk specifically about, 5 5 A. We are a public policy think tank. We picking up from where Mr. Walden left off, about 6 do policy analysis and issues in a variety of 6 exactly the impact of having certain stakeholders 7 7 policy areas, including economic security, tax and involved in the draft language of the bill. To add 8 8 budget policy, healthcare, and immigration, a little bit of context to the timing, are you 9 9 sometimes education as well. familiar with the timing of the passage of the 10 10 Economic Opportunity Act? Q. Are you familiar with the Economic A. Yes, I've seen the dates on which the 11 Development Act of 2013? 11 12 12 A. Yes. legislation moved through the legislature. 13 13 Q. And does New Jersey Policy Perspective Q. Just to confirm, is it correct that on 14 conduct policy research or analysis on that act? 14 May 20th, 2013, the EOA 13 was passed by 15 15 the Assembly and sent to the Senate? A. Yes. 16 16 Q. I'm going to refer to that act as EOA A. I believe, yes. 17 17 13. What kind of research have you conducted on Q. And on June 27, 2013, the EOA 13 was 18 EOA 13? 18 passed by the Senate and conferred by the Assembly? 19 A. Research from our organization has 19 A. Yes. 20 20 focused on the ways that EOA 2013 removed some of Q. And so some of the changes to the draft

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the protections that we believe were important for

programs, subsidy programs, and sort of keeping

track and monitoring the amount of corporate tax

the state's, the EDA, economic development

subsidies that the state has awarded over the

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bill that Mr. Walden just walked through, I don't

know if you sat through the testimony but the dates

on these changes that were made by the person that

was making those changes were on June 14th, June

19th and June 21st, 2013, so it falls within that

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McCoy - examination/Patel period, between the the assembly passing and the Senate passing the bill.

A. Um-hum.

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- Q. So from a policy perspective, I wanted to ask for your reaction of, what is your reaction of a private law firm having access to the draft language of a bill right before it's passed and the impact that that would have on the resulting legislation?
- A. So I don't think it's uncommon for legislators to ask for outside expertise for help in crafting bills. Legislators are not experts in everything. So seeking that assistance and input perfectly normal. For an individual or entity to directly edit and write a bill, particularly when that individual or entity has significant or sufficient opportunity to benefit financially and otherwise from the edits that they made, I would consider that improper.
- Q. Do you believe that having attorneys as subject matter experts is generally important in creating a bill that meets policy goals?
- A. Yes, definitely subject matter experts, you know, weighing in. You want to have

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McCoy - examination/Patel a variety of experts, particularly on something as far-reaching as the EOA 2013, which is dealing with economic development which requires a whole set of experts from urban planners to housing experts to environmental experts, to transportation experts, to sort of finance, development and lending experts. That's a very large undertaking, and you'd want to have input from a variety of those sorts of people.

- Q. So going back to what Mr. Lizura had testified to previously, would you consider it bad policy to have, to allow an individual law firm to make those changes right before it was passed without broader access to any stakeholder to have access to amend that language?
- A. Yes, to have those changes made in a manner, I mean, if I remember correctly, the size of the the bill grew from about 47 pages to 83 pages, if I remember correctly. To add that much content to the bill, and to not get sufficient input from other experts and other stakeholders in due time, is just not proper practice. I would say that it's not typically normal, I would say it's probably more normal than people are

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McCoy - examination/Patel comfortable with, but it's not a normal process.

- Q. And what is the, what you just mentioned that you recall the bill went from 40 to 83 pages, from when to when did the bill expand?
- A. If I remember properly looking at the state website, I believe the Senate voted on the changes or the changes were implemented June 24th and then the Senate voted on, actually voted on those changes June 27.
 - Q. So within the span of three days.
- A. Yes. And I remember, I was not at NJ Policy Perspective at the time but looking, I happened to be familiar with this issue and looking back at journalistic reports and articles, you could see several legislators and stakeholders sort of commenting on the fact that they didn't have the time necessary to look through the changes that were made.
- Q. And what were some of the policy concerns of having this type of involvement?
- A. I think it's, the concerns would be that it was in sort of privatization of the legislative process, and that when you look at the changes that were implemented, it really opened up

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McCoy - examination/Patel the amount of spending that the state could pursue with regards to the corporate tax subsidies to an award. So previously they were having caps on spending, this removes those caps completely so it was technically an unlimited amount of spending that could occur in these programs.

It did not include important stipulations around reports or opportunities to review spending that had occurred, and didn't have a bunch of best practices that are commonly used across the country at a national level.

Q. You had mentioned that you have a background in economic development policy, and so some of the requirements under the tax incentive programs are requiring companies to prove that but for the tax incentives, they would move outside New Jersey.

And so I ask the question, how seriously could a company considering leaving New Jersey but for the tax incentives, if they directly are, or have counsel on their behalf, adding direct language or provisions into the tax incentive bill? So from, in your expert opinion, how seriously could companies such as the ones that were

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McCoy - examination/Patel potentially benefiting earlier, have been considering leaving New Jersey?

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- A. If a company has knowledge and awareness that the stipulations and language of a bill that had been structured in such a way that they would benefit, I would find it hard to believe that they would forego those benefits unless the deal that they would get from other states were significantly better. But considering the size and the scale of New Jersey's corporate tax subsidy program, we pay out, on average, significantly more than other states do, so I find that unlikely.
- Q. Historically and generally, does New Jersey Policy Perspective get called upon to offer its expert opinion or policy research during bill drafting in various bills that have to deal with the kind of research that you do?
- A. Yes. We, you know, we provide comments and help the legislators think through the structuring of bills with regards to minimum wage, with regards to healthcare, immigration like I mentioned, tax and budget policy, and we also, whenever we do research on these issues and

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McCoy - examination/Patel publish that, we should make sure that we are making state legislators aware of what our findings have been and make sure that we are saying that these are the things that we think are proper, and the proper thing to pursue in the construction of your bill.

- O. Is the substance of the EOA 13 the kind of bill in substance that your team at New Jersey Policy Perspective would have the expert knowledge to be able to offer substantial information and assistance in the bill drafting?
- A. Yes. My predecessor, Jon Whiten, is largely considered by many to be one of the foremost experts on this topic in the State of New Jersey.
- Q. And understanding that you were at New Jersey Policy Perspective in 2013 when the bill was passed, do you know if New Jersey Policy Perspective was called upon to assist in that process of contributing information and opinions as to the EOA 13 and making it a good bill to reach its broadest incentives?
- A. Again, I was not employed at NJPP at the time, but in asking my predecessors had our

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McCoy - examination/Patel expertise been sought, the answer was no.

- Q. And there had been a lot of statements that the contributions to the EOA 13 made it a better bill and it was a step up from what existed before. Based on your expertise and your experience at New Jersey Policy Perspective, and your study into this subject matter, can you opine on whether you believe that the bill that was actually passed, is it good policy to reach its goals?
- A. I think there are many portions of the bill that are considerably poor policy. And in the sort of journey that the bill took through the legislature, and then adding Governor Christie at the time, he conditionally vetoed the bill, and he, I remember reading my predecessor Jon Whiten saying, "He removed the one good part of that bill which was some workforce protections."

So that was the negative, and then as I said previously, there are many things that could be in this bill that would lead to better oversight, better opportunities for review by both the state government and outside stakeholders and better, more chances to sort of rein in and be

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McCoy - examination/Chen more targeted with the goals of the programs themselves that were not included, but stakeholders were making those points at that

MS. PATEL: Mr. McCoy, I have no further questions for you. It was very important for us to today so you get across the perspective on the meaning of that and I'll hand the it to Mr. Chairman, if you have any other questions.

PROF. CHEN: Well, this is purely a policy question.

EXAMINATION BY

- 15 PROF. CHEN: 16
 - Q. One thing that EOA 13 did, it basically removed any upper cap on the potential amount of the awards. Do you have an opinion of whether that was a positive policy move?
 - A. Considering the State of New Jersey's fiscal standing and the many challenges that we had as a state with regard to the obligations that we continued to underfund and sort of not meet, no, I don't believe that that was a proper decision to make, to have a program where the

-	Page 290		Page 291
1		1	_
1	Proceedings	1	Proceedings
2	state is unable to determine what spending on this	2	to offer any relevant testimony about
3 4	program will be from an earlier basis, is not	3 4	the EDA's tax incentive programs and
	good, sound or discrete policy.		comments on the evidence we had gathered to
5	PROF. CHEN: Thank you, I don't have	5	further inform us about the direct impact of
6 7	anything further. Thank you very much.	6 7	these programs to taxpayers and companies
	(The witness is excused.)		around the state. We'll make public
8	PROF. CHEN: That is, I'm sure you	8 9	announcements about those hearings using the
9 10	will all be relieved to hear, our last	10	same process we've used for this one. So
11	witness for this hearing and therefore, I'll	11	thank you very much for attending, wish you
	not belabor these proceedings. It has been	12	all a good evening and this hearing is
12 13	a long day. I will conclude this hearing.	13	adjourned.
	A transcript of today's proceedings		(Time noted: 4:40 p.m.)
14	will be available upon request. I note,	14 15	
15	made a further not promise, but assertion		
16	at the last day, and now we appear, we are	16	
17 18	certainly trying to explore ways in which we	17 18	
	can very conveniently available, hopefully	19	
19 20	through the use of technology that we've all	20	
20	become accustomed to.	20	
22	We do plan to conduct at least one	22	
23	more hearing before the beginning of June so	23	
24	that we may have as much information, before	24	
25	we issue our first report. At a later	25	
23	hearing we will allow members of the public	23	
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1		1	
2	CERTIFICATE.	2	INDEX
3	I, DAVID LEVY, a certified court	3	OPENING STATEMENT PROF. CHEN 3
4	reporter and notary public of the State of New	4	OPENING STATEMENT MR. WALDEN 9
5	Jersey, certify that the foregoing is a true and	5	OPENING STATEMENT MR. QUINONES 18
6	accurate transcript of the stenographic notes of	6	OPENING STATEMENT MR. WALDEN 20
7	the proceeding which was held before me on the	7	
8	date and place as hereinbefore set forth.	8	PRESENTATION MS. PREVETE 32
9	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am	9	
10	neither attorney, nor counsel for, nor related to	10	
11	or employed by, any of the parties to the action	11	WITNESS EXAMINATION PAGE
12	and further that I am not a relative or employee	12	FREDERICK COLE MS. LEVICK 46
13	of any attorney or counsel in this place, nor am I	13	MR. WALDEN 76
14	financially interested in this case.	14	PROF. CHEN 77
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto	15	KERRIE-ANN MURRAY MS. WINSTON 79
16	set my hand this 3rd day of May 2019.	16	PROF. CHEN 97
17		17	JOHN BOYD MR. BORCHARDT 97
18		18	PROF. CHEN 111
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22	LICENSE NO. 30X100234000	22	TIM LIZURA MR. WALDEN 188
23		23	PROF. CHEN 275
24		24	BRANDON McCOY MS. PATEL 278
25		25	PROF. CHEN 289
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EXHIBIT D

Bush, Andrew

From: Bush, Andrew

Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 3:34 PM
To: shirley-douglas@CooperHealth.edu

Subject: EDA

EDA has asked for a comp from out of state to support our application. I've reached out to liberty to get a proposal for 100k sf from the navy yard.

EXHIBIT C

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                     NEW JERSEY TASK FORCE
 5
                  ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 6
                  AUTHORITY'S TAX INCENTIVES
 7
 8
                        PUBLIC HEARING
 9
                      Newark, New Jersey
10
                          May 2, 2019
11
12
    BEFORE:
13
                  PROFESSOR RONALD CHEN
14
                  JIM WALDEN, ESQ.
15
                 MILT WILLIAMS, ESQ.
16
                  GEORGIA WINSTON, ESQ.
17
                 AVNI PATEL, ESQ.
18
                 PABLO QUINONES, ESQ.
19
                 DEREK BORCHARDT, ESQ.
20
                  JENNIFER PREVETE, ESQ.
21
                  STEPHANIE LEVICK, ESQ.
22
23
    Reported By:
24
     DAVID LEVY, CCR, CLR
     Job No. 160109
25
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Lawyer - examination/Walden applications, it would make complete logical sense to follow that same process as well.

Q. Okay. Please, go ahead.

2.0

A. All right. So I took it upon myself to make sure that on almost a daily basis I would sit with an underwriter to discuss what projects they were working, what were their observations, what works, what does not work, are there any areas that they felt may be improved. That was my way to understand what was the existing process.

I made it clear to everyone in the earlier parts of the 2017, and May of 2017, that my intent isn't to come in and make vast changes immediately. I felt as a good leader it's best to understand what are the processes, the current processes, and then once I'm able to get my arms around it, look for areas -- look for opportunities to improve, which ultimately we did.

Q. So now that we've talked about kind of your experience when you got in, I'm now going to go back to the questions I was asking before about the period between 2013 and May of 2017.

But before I do that, let me just ask you to make sure I understand. The Grow program,

Lawyer - examination/Walden so everyone is clear, is it fair to say that's designed to create new jobs, retain new jobs, or encourage capital investments?

- A. Correct.
- Q. And it gives tax incentives if companies do one or more of those things?
- A. Ye
- Q. And for companies that were, at the time of their application, they were already in New Jersey, does every Grow applicant need to show that the jobs were at risk, as the program was administered, does every applicant have to show that the jobs were at risk of moving out of the state?
 - A. That is my understanding.
- Q. And is that true even where an application proposes to move jobs intrastate from a city outside of Camden to Camden?
 - A. That is my understanding, yes.
- Q. Does the EDA, did the EDA during this period, again, as part of its administration, require the submission of proof regarding the out of state location?
 - A. Yes.

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Lawyer - examination/Walden

- Q. And before I talk about the kinds of proof that you found that the EDA was accepting, let me just ask you, as a general matter, did the EDA require that the location be bona fide?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Did the EDA require that the location be suitable for business?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And did the EDA require that the location be available?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Now, if you would, what kinds of proof did you find that the EDA was either accepting or asking for as a proxy for those -- those issues?
 - A. Primarily letters of intent.
- Q. Can we refer to those generally as LOIs?
 - A. LOIs.
- Q. Okay. So I'm sure that the LOIs come in various shapes and sizes but could you just give the people who are listening a brief explanation of your understanding what an LOI is.
- A. In other words, it's a terms sheet. It's someone who has the actual asset. They are

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Lawyer - examination/Walden making an offer on, this is what they may be willing to provide you to meet your need in whatever project that you have.

- Q. And would it be the underwriter's expectation that the company actually did diligence to make sure that that location was suitable?
 - A. Yes.
 - O. And that the location was available?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And if the location didn't seem suitable or available, or bona fide, fair to say that the underwriter would ask more questions and ask for more documents?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. And did, in your estimation or based on your experience, does the underwriter have the authority to ask for underlying business records, "Show me the business plans for why this site is suitable," for example?
- A. Right, generally speaking the underwriter can ask for any additional information they deem in support of that alternative location that they questioned an LOI.
 - Q. And if there was a circumstance, as a

EXHIBIT D



Online Application for Financial Assistance

******************* OFFICIAL COPY

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE - 11/7/2014 2:17:03 PM ***********************

APPLICATION NUMBER: 207419

Application Date:

11/7/2014

Who is your NJEDA contact?

Justin Kenyon

Products Selected:

Grow New Jersey Program

Application Fee:

\$5,000

Payment Method:

BYCHECK

Applicant Organization Information

Applicant Organization Name:

(legal name without abbreviations)

Federal Employer's I.D. No. (FEIN):

The Cooper Health System

Doing Business As Name:

Holding Company Name:

Authorized Representative:

Authorized Representative Title:

Is the Organization's address the same as

the Contact's address?

County:

Telephone Number:

Website Address:

Number of Employees:

NAICS Number:

Nature of Business: Medical Services

Cooper University Health Care

n/a

SEVP & CFO

YES

Camden

www.cooperhealth.org

5,998

6221

Please provide a brief history and description of the applicant's business (including principal products and services):

The Cooper Health System is a leading provider of health services to Southern New Jersey and had been a vital institution in Camden for 137 years. Cooper provides a comprehensive network of services that include prevention and wellness, primary and specialty physician services, hospital care, ambulatory and diagnostic treatment services – currently serving more than half a million patients a year

Year Established:

1877

Ownership Structure:

Nonprofit Organization

State of Incorporation/Formation:

N3

List all Trustees or Officers:

Name	SSN	Position	US Citizen	Permanent Resident
Adrienne Kirby, PhD, FACHE		Officer	YES	
Douglas Shirley		Officer	YES	
Gary Lesneski		Officer	YES	
Anthony Mazzarelli, MD, JD, MBE		Officer	YES	

Principal Bank Reference Information

Bank Name	Contact Name	Contact Telephone Number
TD Bank		

Legal Information

Name of counsel to applicant:

Gary J Lesneski, Esquire

Address:

3 Cooper Plaza Suite 316 Camden, NJ 08103

Telephone:

Accountant Information

Accountant name:

William G. Smith

Address:

3 Executive Campus Suite 310 Cherry Hill, NJ

08002

Telephone:

Has the applicant, or any related parties, previously received EDA assistance? YES

Applicant Contact Information

Salutation:

Mr.

First Name: Middle Initial: Last Name: Suffix: Title: Vice President Company: Cooper University Hospital Mailing Address: One Cooper Plaza Address Line 2: City/Town: Camden State: NJ ZIP Code: 08103 Telephone Number: Fax Number: Emall Address: **Consultant Contact Information** Contact Name: na Contact Title: na Company: na Address: na Address Line 2: City: na State: CM ZIP Code: na Phone: na Email: na **Project Information Project Location** Street Address: 1 Federal Street Address Line 2: City/Town: Camden City State: NJ ZIP Code: 08103

Camden County: Block Lot 73 1,73,76,142-144 340076103.00 Census Tract: Is the project located on property that was wholly or substantially damaged or destroyed NO as a result of a Federally-declared disaster? **Project Description** Please provide a narrative description as fully and precisely as possible of the project, including acquisition, lease and renewal terms, construction or expansion plans, current and future uses by the applicant, size of existing and proposed facility, and/or project occupant(s) of the building(s) and/or equipment to be acquired or upgraded: Cooper plans to lease 123,578 square feet of office space, renovate the space, add furniture and add IT infrastructure to support Cooper's operations in this facility. Cooper will utilize the space for administrative services which support its delivery of integrated health care services. Will the project facility be occupied or used YES by any party other than the applicant? Is it anticipated that the project location will LEASE be purchased or leased? **Landlord Contact Information Howard Needleman** Contact Name: Partner Contact Title: L/N CAC, LLC (Needleman Management) Company: 1060 N Kings Highway, Suite 250 Address: Address Line 2: Cherry Hill City: NJ State: 08034 ZIP Code: Phone: Useable Square Footage leased by the

Asset Type:	Gross Leasable Area (GLA))	Useable Square Feet (USF)

123,578

569,473

Total Useable Square Footage of the

tenant:

building:

Office 123,578 123,578

Describe how the green building standards posted on EDA's website, here www.njeda.com/GreenBldgGuidance2, will be incorporated into the proposed project. Also include how renewable energy, energy efficiency technology, and non-renewable resources will be incorporated into the project to reduce environmental degradation and to encourage long-term cost reduction.

The project will incorporate green building standards related to renovation of an existing non-industrial building

Will the project generate solar energy on the site?

Project Costs

Please enter applicable costs:

Existing Building Renovation or Addition	\$2,600,000
Fees - Engineering and Architectural	\$650,000
Fixtures & Equipment, Furniture	\$3,600,000
Technology & Networking	\$1,800,000
Relocation Costs	\$480,000
Total Cost:	\$9,130,000

Prevailing Wage

Be advised that projects utilizing financial assistance for construction related costs are subject to state prevailing wage requirements. For further information regarding prevailing wage requirements, please visit the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce webpage on prevailing wage requirements located at

http://iwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wagehour/wagerate/prevailing wage determinations.html. Please contact Justin if you have any questions.

Project Costs - Existing Building Renovation or Addition

Be aware that Renovation and Additions may trigger Prevailing Wage. Please contact Justin if you have any questions.

Provide a brief description of the size and nature of the renovations and/or addition: Construction costs will result from tenant fit-out to configure the space for Cooper's use and is expected to include demolition of the existing fit-out, modifications to HVAC system, construction of new walls, finishes, etc

Square feet of the building:

569473

Describe all approvals for this project	Status	Date
1. Site Plan Approval	Anticipated	
2. Schematic Drawings	Anticipated	
3. Design Drawlngs	Anticipated	
4. Construction Drawings	Anticipated	
5. Construction Permits	Anticipated	
6. Historic Review	NA	
7. Traffic/Offsite Improvements	NA	

Project Costs - Existing Building Renovation or Addition

Has construction work begun on project? NO

Do you have an Architect under contract at the time of this application?

NO

Do you have an Construction Manager under contract at the time of this application?

NO NO

Do you have an General Contractor under contract at the time of this application?

NO

Sources of Funds

Sources should include categories such as owner's equity, bank financing, and other government support used to finance the completion of the project. The EDA grant request, if successful, should <u>not</u> be considered a project financing source since it will be available over time.

Source Name	Source Amount		
owner's equity	\$9,130,000		
Total:	\$9,130,000		

Grant Amount Requested:

\$44,770,000

Describe how the request was calculated:

The Grant Amount was developed using the base credits and bonus credits available under the GrowNJ program for a project at this site. The Applicant anticipates 407 full time jobs and base/bonus credits of \$11,000 per job per year.

Desired Grant Term

10

Grow New Jersey Program

Location of Corporate headquarters

Address:

1 Cooper Plaza

Address Line 2:

City:

Camden

State:

NI

ZIP Code:

08103

County:

Camden

Country:

US

State of Incorporation:

NJ

New Jersey Operations

Job Type	Number of Employees	Employment	Relocating to Proposed Site	Current Location of Positions	Employee Type	Number of Hours Per Week
Administrative and support services	383	Retained	YES	Cherry Hill & Mt Laurel	W-2	35
Administrative and support services	52	Retained	YES	Camden	W-2	35
	Total: 435					

Does the company provide employee health benefits under a group health plan as defined under section 14 of P.L. 1997, c. 146 (C.17B:27-54), a health benefits plan as defined under section I of P.L. 1992, c.162(C.17B:27A-17), or a policy or contract of health insurance covering more than one person issued pursuant to Article 2 of Title 17B of the New Jersey Statutes?

YES

Number of existing full-time jobs in NJ to be relocated to the proposed site:

407

Are any jobs listed in the application at risk NO of being located outside of New Jersey:

Date or dates that the jobs at risk would be expected to leave the State: n/a

Number of new full-time jobs to be created

0 at the proposed site:

Number of Construction jobs working on this project:

List other states New Jersey is in competition with:

Cooper intends to provide 435 total jobs including 407 Full Time jobs. Of these full time jobs,

355 are relocating from outside Camden and 52 are relocating from within the city limits to allow for clinical expansion on Cooper's main campus at One Cooper and Three Cooper Plaza.

What is the approximate start date for the

project?

1/1/2015

What is the approximate date of completion

for the project?

7/1/2015

Date that company commenced operations in

New Jersey:

January 1875

Are any of the employees or capital investment referenced in the application currently subject to a BEIP, BRRAG or HUB

agreement?

4,658

NO

Estimated Total Gross Payroll at the project

Total number of full time NJ employees:

site:

\$27,264,000

Average Annual Salary for Eligible

Employees:

\$62,918

Median Annual Salary for Eligible Employees: \$49,305

I certify that my business is not in default

with any other program administered by the State of New Jersey:

YES

List the exact names of all tax-paying entities below that will pay withholdings for eligible employees under the Grant together with their New Jersey tax identification number (all entities paying withholding taxes for eligible employees will be required to execute the grant agreement). Any companies that are not wholly owned subsidiaries of the Recipient will be required to submit an application for inclusion in the Grant.

Tax Entity

ID#

The Cooper Health System

Additional Background Information

Businesses applying for eligibility for NJEDA programs are subject to the Authority's Disqualification/Debarment Regulations (the "Regulations"), which are set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:30-2.1, et seq. Applicants are required to answer the following background questions pertaining to the commission of certain actions that can lead to debarment or disqualification from eligibility under the Regulations.

All capitalized terms used in this Questionnaire, except those defined elsewhere herein, shall be defined at the bottom of this form.

1. Commission of a criminal offense as an NO Incident to obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract, or subcontract

thereunder, or in the performance of such contract or subcontract.

- 2. Violation of the Federal Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, perjury, false swearing, receiving stolen property, obstruction of justice, or any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or honesty.
- 3. Violation of the Federal or State antitrust statutes, or of the Federal Anti-Kickback Act NO (18 U.S.C.874).
- 4. Violation of any law governing the conduct of elections of the Federal Government, State of New Jersey or of its political subdivision.
- 5. Violation of the "Law Against Discrimination" (P.L. 1945, c169, N.J.S.A 10:5-1 et seq., as supplemented by P.L. 1975, c127), or of the act banning discrimination in public works employment (N.J.S.A 10:2-1 et seq.) or of the act prohibiting discrimination by industries engaged in defense work in the employment of persons therein (P.L. 1942, c114, N.J.S.A 10:10, et seq.).
- 6. To the best of your knowledge after reasonable inquiry, violation of any laws governing hours of labor, minimum wage NO standards, prevailing wage standards, discrimination in wages, or child labor.
- 7. To the best of your knowledge, after reasonable inquiry, violation of any law governing the conduct of occupations or professions of regulated industries.
- 8. Debarment by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the State or Federal NO government.
- 9. Violation of any of the following prohibitions on vendor activities representing a conflict of interest, or failure to report a solicitation as set forth below:

NO

NO

NO

I. No person shall pay, offer or agree to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity, or other thing of value of any kind to any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee, as defined by N.J.S.A 52:13D-13(b) and (e), with which such person transacts or offers or proposes to transact business, or to any member of the immediate family as defined by N.J.S.A 52:13D-13i, of any such officer or employee, or partnership, firm or corporation with which they are employed, or associated, or in which such officer or employee has an

interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A 52:13D-13g.

ii. The solicitation of any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity or other thing of value by any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee from any person shall be reported in writing by the person to the Attorney General and the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards.

iii. No person may, directly or indirectly, undertake any private business, commercial or entrepreneurial relationship with, whether or not pursuant to employment, contract or other agreement, express or implied, or sell any interest in such person to, any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee having any duties or responsibilities in connection with the purchase, acquisition or sale of any property or services by or to the Authority, or with any person, firm or entity with which he or she is employed or associated or in which he or she has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A 52:13D-13g. Any relationships subject to this subsection shall be reported in writing to the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards, which may grant a waiver of this restriction upon application of the Authority officer or employee upon a finding that the present or proposed relationship does not present the potential, actuality or appearance of a conflict of interest.

Iv. No person shall influence, or attempt to influence or cause to be influenced, any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee in his or her capacity in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of the officer or employee.

v. No person shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee to use, or attempt to use, his or her official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for the person or any other person.

NO

10. Has any member of the Controlled Group been found guilty, liable or responsible for the violation in any Legal Proceedings of any State, Federal or foreign law that may bear upon a lack of responsibility or moral integrity, or that may provide other compelling reasons for disqualification. (Your responses to the foregoing question should include, but not be limited to, the violation of the following laws, without regard to whether any monetary award, damages, verdict, assessment or penalty has been made against any member of the Controlled Group, except that any violation of any environmental law in category (v) below need not be reported where the monetary award damages, etc. amounted to less than \$1 million).

- i. Laws banning or prohibiting discrimination or harassment in the workplace on the basis of gender, race, age, religion or handicapped status.
- II. Laws prohibiting or banning any form of forced, slave, or compulsory labor.
- iii. Laws protecting workers who have reported the wrongdoing of their employers to governmental authorities, commonly referred to as "Whistleblower Laws".
- iv. Securities or tax laws resulting in a finding of fraud or fraudulent conduct.
- v. Environmental laws.
- vi. Laws banning the possession or sale of, or trafficking in, firearms or drugs.
- vii. Laws banning anti-competitive dumping of goods.
- viii. Anti-terrorist laws.
- ix. Criminal laws involving commission of any felony or indictable offense under State, Federal or foreign law.
- x. Laws banning human rights abuses.
- xi. Laws banning the trade of goods or services to enemies of the United States.
- xii. The New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law, N.J.S.A 52:13D-1, et seq.

NO

11. To the best of your knowledge, after reasonable inquiry, is any member of the Controlled Group a party to pending Legal Proceedings wherein any of the offenses or violations described in questions 1-10 above are alleged or asserted against such entity or person?

If the answer to any of the foregoing questions is affirmative, you must provide the following information as an attachment to the application: (i) the case and court in which such matters were tried or are pending; (ii) the charges or claims adjudicated or alleged; and (iii) a brief explanation of the circumstances giving rise to such matters. Also, for affirmative answers to question 1-10, copies of the final judgments, consent orders or administrative findings, as the case may be, that were entered or made in such matters must be attached.

The terms set forth below shall be defined as follows:

"Affiliates" means persons having an overt or covert relationship such that any one of them directly or indirectly controls or has the power to control another.

"Legal Proceedings" means any State, Federal or foreign civil, criminal or administrative proceeding in a court or administrative tribunal in the United States, any territories thereof or foreign jurisdiction.

The Authority reserves the right to require additional clarifying or explanatory information from the applicant ("Applicant") regarding the answers given. If, at any time prior to board action on this application, or, at any time between the date of such action and the execution of a grant agreement with the Authority, the Applicant should become aware of any facts that materially alter or change such answers, or render any of them incomplete, the Applicant shall have a duty to immediately report such facts to the Authority in writing.

Certification of Application

PLEASE NOTE:

Eligibility of financial assistance by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority is determined by the information presented in this application and the required attachments and schedules. Any changes in the status of the proposed project from the facts presented herein could disqualify the project, including but not limited to, the commencement of construction or the acquisition of assets such as land or equipment. Please contact the staff of the EDA before taking any action which would change the status of the project as reported herein. The EDA's regulations and policies regarding the payment of prevailing wages and affirmative action in the hiring of construction workers require the submission of certain reports and certificates and the inclusion of certain provisions in construction contracts. Please consult with the EDA staff for details concerning these matters. (Forms can be found on our website www.njeda.com/forms)

Only Board Members of the governing board of the particular program for which you are applying, by resolution, may take action to determine project eligibility and to authorize the issuance of funds.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING DULY SWORN UPON MY OATH SAY:

- 1. I have received a copy of the "Regulation on Payment of Prevailing Wages" and the "Affirmative Action Regulation" and am prepared to comply with the requirements contained therein.
- 2. I affirm, represent, and warrant that the applicant has no outstanding obligations to any bank, loan company, corporation, or individual not mentioned in the above application and attachments; that the information contained in this application and in all attachments submitted herewith is to the best of my knowledge true and complete and that the bond/loan applied for herein is not for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 3. I understand that if such information is willfully false, I am subject to criminal prosecution under N.J.S.A. 2C:28-2 and civil action by the EDA which may at its option terminate its financial assistance.
- 4. I authorize the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety to verify any answer(s) contained herein through a search of its records, or records to which it has access, and to release the results of said research to the EDA.
- 5. I authorize the EDA to obtain such information including, but not limited to, a credit bureau check as it may require, covering the applicant and/or its principals, stockholders and/or investors.
- 6. I authorize the EDA to provide information submitted to it by or on behalf of the applicant to any bank or State agency which might participate in the requested financing with the EDA.
 - I am Authorized Signer and I accept the terms and conditions.

Required Attachments

- Application for Tax Clearance
 - <u>Download Application for Tax Clearance Division of Taxation</u>
 (Instructions: Please only complete the information above the dotted line on the application and sign and date at the bottom of the form.)
 - Link to Treasury
 - P.L.2007, C.101
- 3 Years of Financial Statements
- Professional Engineer certification for solar claims, if applicable
- Site Map according to Site Map Specifications
- PDF of the on-line mapping tool found at <u>http://nigin.state.ni.us/OTT_BusinessMap2</u> with applicant's proposed determination of project eligibility and associated report
- CEO Certification
- Additional application questions
- List all local and/or state financial assistance being utilized in the proposed

project including development subsidies being requested or receiving, other state assistance, low interest rate loans, infrastructure improvements, property tax abatements and exemptions, and training grant assistance. Please specify program name, granting body, dollar amounts or value, terms and status of application.

- Material Factor The provision of a grant from the Grow New Jersey Program must be a 'material factor' in a company's decision to retain/relocate/expand operations in New Jersey.
- A. A full economic analysis of all locations under consideration including such components as, but not limited to the cost effectiveness of remaining in this State versus relocation under alternative plans (e.g. Real Estate listings, Tax or other State/Local financial incentives offered to the applicant and Cost Benefit Analysis, which may include cost per square foot, real estate tax, tax incentives, training incentives, labor costs, etc.)
- B. All lease agreements, ownership documents, or substantially similar documentation for the business's current in-State locations
- C. All lease agreements, ownership documents, or substantially similar documentation for the potential out-of-state location alternatives, to the extent they exist
- D. A description of the 'at risk' nature of the employees that may be leaving the State. Include how such issues as the following will be addressed: mobility, labor and regulatory requirements as applicable (e.g., is the lease at the current facility expiring, will there be stranded assets if the business leaves; is the business' labor force required to be in the State; is a union contract required; is a license required to operate in the State).
- E. A specific statement on the role the grant will play in the company's decision-making process to relocate in New Jersey
- Additional Project Information
 - A. Project schedule that identifies projected move dates for each site
- B. A schedule of short-term employment projections of the business in the State based upon the relocation
- C. An estimate of the projected retained State tax revenues resulting from the relocation
- D. A description of the type of contribution the business can make to the long-term growth of the State's economy and a description of the potential impact on the State's economy if jobs are not retained, etc.
- E. A description of any capital investments made by the business at the new business location
- F. Applicants can designate different companies to receive the tax credit; however the recipients must be part of the applicant's 'controlled group'

approved by the EDA. Controlled group is defined pursuant to section 1563 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C.A. § 1563. As such, all companies receiving the allocation must be part of the Project Agreement thereby approved by the EDA. If applicable:

- a. Attach a list noting the percentage (%) allocated to each member of the controlled group of corporations.
- Project Occupant Application (available at <u>www.njeda.com/forms</u>)
- Notice Regarding Affirmative Action/Prevailing Wage, and Green Building Requirements, click here for form.
- Copies of permits (Existing Building Renovation or Addition)

EXHIBIT E

To: Justin Kenyon[JKenyon@njeda.com]

Cc: Kevin Sheehan[ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

From: Bush, Andrew

Sent: Tue 11/11/2014 7:37:12 PM (UTC)
Subject: Cooper Hosptial GrowNJ Application
GrowNJ Cost Benefit Analysis - Cooper.xls
Benefits Acknowledgement form 2014.pdf

2015OpenEnrollmentGuide.pdf EDA CEO Certification.pdf

EDA turner form.pdf

Application completed by Cooper.pdf

Justin,

Regarding your questions:

- 1. **CEO certification:** please see attached
- 2. Cost benefit analysis: please see attached; I am happy to walk you through our analysis and assumptions
- 3. Development Subsidy Jobs Goals: I presume that this is the same form as the 'Turner' form. Please see attached
- 4. **Health insurance confirmation:** we offer health insurance to all fulltime employees and part time employees that work 20+ hours a week. The attached Benefits Acknowledgement form is provided for all such employees. I've also attached the open enrollment guide to benefits.
- 5. **Retained jobs clarification:** The attached application provides details on jobs retained. None of these positions are physicians or provide direct medical care. Our proposed grant award is based on 407 FTEs. We intend to relocate more than 407 employees to this facility, we've also included the part time employees as these employees will also be relocated to Camden (435 total employees retained). Beyond our own employees, we will also be relocating multiple vendors and consultant housed within this facility we did NOT include any of these positions in our retained jobs.
- 6. **Application fee:** the check for the application fee was mailed today along with a hard copy of our application and supporting exhibits. FedEx tracking number is: 7718 1869 9063

Lastly, I noticed this morning that we inadvertently keyed in the incorrect census tract in our application. The correct census tract is 6103, it has been updated on the attached application.

Thanks for your assistance

Andy

Andrew Bush

VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital 856.342.3083

From: Kevin Sheehan [mailto:ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 2:44 PM

To: Justin Kenyon Cc: Bush, Andrew

Subject: RE: Cooper Hosptial GrowNJ Application

Justin. Cooper will provide the information you have requested. We have responded to the issues you identified below in red.

Andy Bush is copied on this email and will send the information to you directly.

Kevin D. Sheehan, Esquire PARKER McCAY P.A.

P: 856-985-4020 F: 856-552-1427

ksheehan@parkermccay.com

www.parkermccay.com

From: Justin Kenyon [mailto:JKenyon@njeda.com]

Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 11:13 AM

To: Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: Cooper Hosptial GrowNJ Application

Kevin,

Thanks for the submission. I had a chance to review and here are a few comments/questions/needs.

- 1. CEO Certification was not included in the package, please provide. They will sign and send to you directly.
- 2. Cost Benefit Analysis was not included in the package, we need to see something that indicates a comparison of the current NJ locations with a consolidation to the L3 space. Also need specifics on the lease associated with the L3 space, is there an LOI in place, still negotiating lease terms, etc? They will complete and send it to you by tomorrow.
- 3. Development Subsidy Job Goals form was not signed. They will sign and send to you directly.
- 4. Need proof they offer health insurance to their employees. What documentation or information do you need to prove they offer health insurance?
- 5. Please provide a more specific breakdown of the jobs to be retained, I know the question will come up and I want to be able to head off any questions in advance that might have to do with insuring these are not actually physicians or medical facility related jobs. Also, grant is calculated on 407 jobs but there are 435 jobs listed as retained, please clarify. They will clarify.
- 6. Need the \$5,000 application fee before analysis can start. Check will be delivered by the end of the day today or tomorrow.

If you're shooting for the December board please get me this information as soon as possible, we are short handed on the analyst side and will have a slew of projects going to the December board under the new legislation so timing/capacity will be tight. Thanks. We are shooting for the December meeting.

Justin

From: Kevin Sheehan [mailto:ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2014 9:56 AM

To: Justin Kenyon Cc: Tim Lizura

Subject: Cooper Hosptial GrowNJ Application

Justin. I wanted to give you a heads up that Cooper Hospital filed its GrowNJ application for the relocation of its administrative offices from Cherry Hill & Mount Laurel to Camden online Friday.

As you review the application, if you need anything, let me know.

Kevin D. Sheehan, Esquire PARKER McCAY P.A. P: 856-985-4020 ksheehan@parkermccay.com

9000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 300 P.O. Box 5054

Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054-5054

P: 856-596-8900 F: 856-552-1427

www.parkermccay.com

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NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS

VERSION 1.03

APPLICANT: The Cooper Health System

Date: 11/10/2014

Grow NJ Term: 10 Years

LOCATION INFORMATION:

NEW JERSEY
LOCATION
Project Location (City, State)
Camden, NJ

89,258Sq. Ft. 123,585 Sq. Ft. Location Size in Sq. Ft.

34,327 Sq. Ft.

COST

DIFFERENCE

ALTERNATE LOCATION

GLGLPurchase (P)/Gross Lease (GL)/Triple Net Lease (TNL)/ Owned Facility (OF)/Construction (C)

\$ 22.70/Sq. Ft. \$ 28.00/Sq. Ft. Building Cost Per Sq. Ft.

ONE-TIME UPFRONT COSTS:

\$ 2,600,000.00 \$ 5,400,000.00 \$ 480,000.00 \$ 3,900,000.00 \$ 650,000.00 \$ 13,030,000.00 DIFFERENCE \$ 2,600,000.00 \$ 5,400,000.00 \$ 480,000.00 \$3,900,000.00 \$ 650,000.00 \$ 13,030,000.00 Total One-Time Upfront Costs = Demolition/Temp Rental Space Sale of Owned Facility (Net of any Mortgage Amount) Land Acquisition Cost (if separate from building) Machinery and Equipment Acquisition Cost Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment Other One-Time Upfront Costs -Employee Relocations Costs **Building Construction Costs Building Renovation Costs Building Acquisition Cost** Lease Termination Costs Company Moving Costs

ONGOING ANNUAL COSTS:		Start	Start End Cost	Start End	nd Cost	
		Month	Month Frequency	Month Mo	Month Frequency	
Annual Rental Costs		\$ 3,460,380.00	180	\$ 2,026,156.60 1 1	08	\$ 1,434,223.40
Annual Real Estate Taxes		1	180	1 1	08	\$
Annual Property Insurance Costs		1	180	1 1	08	\$
Annual Building Maintenance Costs		1	180	1 1	08	\$
Annual Electricity Costs		1	180	1 1	80	\$
Annual Payroll Costs		1	180	1 1	80	- \$
Lease of Owned Facility (for a partial sublease or due to relo	sublease or due to relocation)	\$-1	180	\$-1	80	-\$
Other Annual Ongoing Costs -		\$ - 1	180	8 - 1 1	08	- \$
Other Annual Ongoing Costs -	Description	\$-1	180	\$-1	08	\$
Other Annual Ongoing Costs -	Description	\$ - 1	180	8 - 1 1	08	- \$
	Total Annual Ongoing Costs = $\frac{$3,460,380.0}{}$	\$ 3,460,380.00		\$ 2,026,156.60		\$ 1,434,223.40

\$ 23,795,454.54 \$ 27,193,376.14 Amount in Today's Dollars (NPV at 6%) that New Jersey is More Expensive than the Alternative Location Over the 10 Year Grant Term = Amount in Today's Dollars (NPV at 6%) that New Jersey is More Expensive than the Alternative Location Over the 15 Year Grant Commitment Duration =

ASSUMPTIONS:

1 Existing leases costs include weighted average of 4 locations. Operating costs are for real estate only and do not include payroll or other business expenses 2Lease termination costs include remaining obligation on 4 leased properties

3 Proposed location lease costs include \$17 NNN + \$11/sf opex. Entered as GL for simplicity

5 6 7 7 9 9 9 9 10

Given that selecting the proposed New Jersey location is \$23,795,454.54 more expensive than the alternative location and the potential incentive grant may not completely cover the cost

1 Additional SF leased allows for relocation of 52 jobs from other camden locations. Space vacated on the health sciences campus allows for expansion of clinical services. differential, please provide insight into the other factors that make New Jersey competitive despite the additional costs:

2 Consolidation of support services to this location allows for consolidation of IT staff in single location and better team support

5 6 7 7 9 9 9 9 9 10

3 Consolidation of support services to Camden affords these offices and staff closer geographic proximity to the hospital and supports ongoing Camden redevelopmen efforts

Existing Cooper Facilities

		annual occupancy			remaining obligation beyond	
Property	SF	CO	st \$,	/sf	Ехр	1/1/2015
3 Executive, Cherry Hill		61,136	1,250,000	20.45	9/30/2017	3,437,500
10000 commerce pkwy, Mt Laurel		20,000	590,000	29.50	6/30/2015	295,000
200 Federal St, Camden		3,130	81,000	25.88	3/31/2016	101,250
2 Acquarium Dr, Camden		4,992	105,000	21.03	9/30/2015	78,750
Total		89,258	2,026,000	22.70		3,912,500

EXHIBIT F

Message

From: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: 11/14/2014 8:33:42 PM

To: shirley-douglas@CooperHealth.edu

Subject: EDA

EDA has asked for a comp from out of state to support our application. I've reached out to liberty to get a proposal for 100k sf from the navy yard.

EXHIBIT G

Message

From: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: 11/25/2014 11:31:40 PM **To**: Jon.Sarkisian@cbre.com

Subject: Re: favor

Will do

Andy Bush (267) 847-4862

On Nov 25, 2014, at 6:31 PM, Sarkisian, Jon @ Mt Laurel < Jon.Sarkisian@cbre.com > wrote:

Andy

I also got your VM about a proposal . I like to speak to you the numbers may not come in the area that you thought.

Call me in the office tomorrow

Jon C Sarkisian
Executive Vice- President
CBRE
1000 Howard Blvd. suite 104
Mount Laurel NJ 08054
856-359-9408
jon.sarkisian@cbre.com

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 25, 2014, at 10:27 AM, Bush, Andrew <bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu> wrote:

Jon-

As part of our EDA application we need a term sheet for a potential location outside of

I need a credible location that is LESS expensive than L3. I think that Center Sq may be the right comp – the building is listed by CBRE

Given that this building is within the CBRE family – can you get me a term sheet for 120k sf? Quietly? No probability of us moving to Center Sq, so I don't want to make too much noise

I need a full service number of \$24/sf or less to make the numbers work. Space can be as-is for 10 or 15 year term.

Let me know

Thanks

Andy

Andrew Bush

VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital 856.342.3083

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EXHIBIT H

Message

From: Kevin Sheehan [ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Sent: 11/26/2014 6:04:57 PM

To: Justin Kenyon [JKenyon@njeda.com]
CC: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu

Subject: RE: Cooper

Justin. Cooper will agree to remove the 52 jobs relocating from within Camden. They want to add 8 new jobs in IT at this location. That would change their application from 355 jobs to 363 jobs @ \$11,000/year or \$3,993000 per year.

Andy is getting the documentation, but he is not sure that he will be able to get it today given the holiday.

We will responds to Teresa's other questions in a separate email shortly.

Kevin D. Sheehan, Esquire PARKER McCAY P.A.

P: 856-985-4020 F: 856-552-1427

ksheehan@parkermccay.com www.parkermccay.com

From: Justin Kenyon [mailto:JKenyon@njeda.com] Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 9:10 AM

To: Kevin Sheehan Subject: Cooper

Kevin,

Good morning. Any thought given to what we discussed a few days ago? Teresa Wells is the analyst on our side and she needs to know what we are looking at in terms of project scope/grow dollar amount because our next incentive meeting is Monday so she needs to wrap up her analysis in the next few hours. I believe she emailed Andrew Bush some questions a few days ago and to the best of my knowledge she has not received responses. Also, if this is going to be an over \$40MM request the December board might not it be possible since that process takes a lot longer in terms of analysis and we still need to have the CEO meeting to discuss the over \$40MM aspect, would also need an approval fee check early next week for half a percent of the award amount being sought which is our policy for any over \$40MM project, in this case we would need a check roughly in the amount of \$220,000. Let me know which way things are leaning if you can. Thanks.

Justin

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

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Message

From: Justin Kenyon [JKenyon@njeda.com]

Sent: 11/26/2014 7:01:48 PM

To: Kevin Sheehan [ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

CC: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu

Subject: RE: Cooper

Thanks Kevin, I passed this on to Teresa and we will discuss internally at our incentive meeting on Monday. She has already left for the holiday so no need to rush it at this point. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

From: Kevin Sheehan [mailto:ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 1:05 PM

To: Justin Kenyon

Cc: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu

Subject: RE: Cooper

Justin. Cooper will agree to remove the 52 jobs relocating from within Camden. They want to add 8 new jobs in IT at this location. That would change their application from 355 jobs to 363 jobs @ \$11,000/year or \$3,993000 per year.

Andy is getting the documentation, but he is not sure that he will be able to get it today given the holiday.

We will responds to Teresa's other questions in a separate email shortly.

Kevin D. Sheehan, Esquire PARKER McCAY P.A.

P: 856-985-4020 F: 856-552-1427

ksheehan@parkermccay.com www.parkermccay.com

From: Justin Kenyon [mailto:JKenyon@njeda.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 9:10 AM

To: Kevin Sheehan Subject: Cooper

Kevin,

Good morning. Any thought given to what we discussed a few days ago? Teresa Wells is the analyst on our side and she needs to know what we are looking at in terms of project scope/grow dollar amount because our next incentive meeting is Monday so she needs to wrap up her analysis in the next few hours. I believe she emailed Andrew Bush some questions a few days ago and to the best of my knowledge she has not received responses. Also, if this is going to be an over \$40MM request the December board might not it be possible since that process takes a lot longer in terms of analysis and we still need to have the CEO meeting to discuss the over \$40MM aspect, would also need an approval fee check early next week for half a percent of the award amount being sought which is our policy for any over \$40MM project, in this case we would need a check roughly in the amount of \$220,000. Let me know which way things are leaning if you can. Thanks.

Justin

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

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Message

From: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: 12/5/2014 10:05:53 PM **To**: twells@njeda.com

CC: JKenyon@njeda.com; ksheehan@parkermccay.com

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Attachments: Proposal - Cooper (12-5-14).docx

Teresa-

Please find attached a letter of intent from a prospective Philadelphia landlord. The terms are slightly more aggressive than those presented in the cost benefit analysis meaning that there is more of a burden to Cooper to remain in NJ.

Please let me know if you would like me to update the cost benefit analysis.

Thanks Andy

----Original Message----

From: Bush, Andrew

Sent: Thursday, December 04, 2014 1:19 PM

To: 'Teresa Wells'

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Attached is the LOI for the L3 portion. The lease has not yet been updated to reflect these terms. PA alternate anticipated by the end of today.

----Original Message----

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:13 AM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

I'll be "greedy"..can I have both? Thanks

----Original Message----

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:03 AM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

We have a draft lease. Would you prefer a draft lease (unexecuted) or an executed LOI?

----Original Message----

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:02 AM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Thanks..do you have something in writing for the Camden lease?

And I'll address the jobs also, if you are saying there are now 17 new jobs not moving from suburbs..in order to get credit for new hires the minimum is 19...19 more jobs is just over \$40 million again...

- Teresa 609-858-6752

----Original Message----

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 5:13 PM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

All quoted numbers are verbal from prospective landlords in Pennyslvania. I expect to have proposals to justify the numbers by the end of the week.

I will verify the occupancy dates of each space.

From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 4:43 PM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Thanks, it is very important that I have some back-up to the lease terms as presented in the Cost Benefit analysis - it's all verbal at this point?

I've also been asked to find out how long Cooper has leased space in Cherry Hill and Mt. Laurel...so from the leases you provided..since 1996 in Mt. Laurel and since 2005 in Cherry Hill?

Thanks, Teresa 609-858-6752

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 11:15 AM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Teresa,

Sorry for the delay in the response. Please see responses below.

Regards, Andy

Andrew Bush VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital 856.342.3083

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 4:51 PM

To: Bush, Andrew Cc: Justin Kenyon

Subject: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Hi Andrew,

I am processing Cooper's Grow Application for review by EDA Board. I have a couple of questions:

- 1. Please provide the back-up on the proposed terms for each of the locations, NJ and PA, ie term sheets, letters of intent and/or draft lease agreements.

 I am touring alternate locations in PA on Wednesday and hope to have term sheets by the end of the week.
- I wanted to verify the number of jobs 407 total retained full-time jobs within NJ Comprising of 355 relocated from outside of Camden and then 52 retained jobs within Camden? I also saw 435 jobs retained in the application. Our application was based on 407 FTE positions relocated to this facility. The 435 jobs included ALL jobs including part time positions. Kevin Sheehan's email to Justin on Nov 26th indicated that we intend to modify our application to remove the 52 Camden jobs but add an additional NEW 8 jobs in IT to this location. the revised totals 363 jobs @ \$11,000/yr or \$3,993,000 per year.
- 3. Regarding the 52 retained jobs within Camden, please provide the job titles for these positions as well as where from within Camden they are relocating from. Please also provide a more detailed explanation about what this portion of the project is what type of clinical services? These jobs are non-clinical and are removed per the modification above but we do intend to move these positions. Descriptions and locations as follows:
 Internal Auditor
 Process Improvement Black Belts
 Applications analyst

Director of IT Clinical applications analyst Compliance Chief Compliance Officer Paralegal Secretary Lawyer Community Development Foundation Development Accountant Employment Consultant HR Director Project Management Director of Facilities AVP Facilities And the addresses in Camden are

1 Cooper Plaza 3 Cooper Plaza 401 Haddon Ave 2 Aquarium Drive 200 Federal Street 618 Benson St.

What is the number of full-time NJ employees as of end of the last tax period, 12/31/13? Is it 4,658?

Full time NJ employees was 4,646 as of 12/31/2013

Thanks, Teresa

Teresa Wells, Sr. Finance Officer NJEDA, 36 West State Street, P.O. Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625 (v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699 twells@njeda.com<mailto:twells@njeda.com>

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Nicholas J. Gersbach

First Vice President

CB Richard Ellis, Inc.
Office Leasing Division

December 5, 2014

Mr. Jon Sarkisian CBRE 100 Howard Blvd, suite 104 Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

RE: Cooper University Medical Systems

Dear Jon:

We are pleased to present the attached proposal for Cooper University Medical Systems' tenancy in Centre Square.

Centre Square offers Cooper University Medical Systems a state-of-the-art office building in the best location in the city of Philadelphia. Significant renovations to the building's systems, including all new elevators, life safety, HVAC, security and technology have been completed. The main lobby renovations have been completed and the building's new front courtyard and glass façade have created a dynamic new entry to the towers. In addition, Cooper's employees can take advantage of our 400-car on-site parking facility, our newly renovated escalators providing direct access to the SEPTA concourse and the beautiful new Dirworth Park across the street at City Hall.

Jon, I assure you that Equity CommonWealth will work extremely diligently to accommodate your tenant's needs. We hope to hear positively from you regarding our proposal.

Regards,

Nicholas Gersbach First Vice President

215-561-8945

CBRE CB RICHARD ELLIS

Two Liberty Place 50 S. 16th Street Suite 3000 Philadelphia, PA 19102

215 561 8900 Main 215 561 8945 Direct 215 557 6719 Fax

nick.gersbach@cbre.com

Christian L. Dyer First Vice President 215-561-8946



cc: Dan Brogan, EQC John McCullough, CBRE



PROPOSAL FOR

COOPER UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SYSTEMS

CENTRE SQUARE

1500 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA

Landlord: Equity Commonwealth (NYSE: EQC) is an internally managed and self-

> advised real estate investment trust (REIT) and one of the largest commercial office REITs in the United States with a portfolio of over 40 million square feet located in 30 states, DC and Australia. Equity

Commonwealth is based in Chicago, IL.

Tenant: Cooper University Medical Systems

Requirement: 113,756 RSF of contiguous space in the West Tower

Premises: Floor 15 28,368 RSF

> Floor 16 28,368 RSF Floor 17 28,368 RSF Floor 18 28,652 RSF 113,756 RSF

Lease Term: Ten (10) years and eight (8) months

Rent Abatement: Eight (8) months

Base Rent: Option A: \$22.00 per rentable square foot *

> Option B: \$24.75 per rentable square foot *

* Base Rent shall increase fifty cents (\$.50) per rentable square foot annually thereafter for the balance of the lease term. Base rent is quoted Full Service and includes all operating costs, real estate taxes, janitorial service and full electric for heating, ventilation and air conditioning up to 5 watts per RSF. Operating expenses and Real Estate taxes are subject to reimbursement for increases over the base year as provided below.

Lease

Commencement: The Lease Term will commence on the date (the "Commencement Date")

that Tenant takes delivery of the Premises for construction of the

improvements. The Substantial Completion Date is currently estimated to



be June/July 2015. The Premises is currently vacant and will be delivered 150 days prior to the Substantial Completion Date for Tenant to complete all improvements, furniture installations and telephone and network cabling.

Tenant Improvement

Allowance: Option A: N/A

Option B: \$50.00 per rentable square foot *

* Landlord shall provide an allowance on a per rentable square foot basis for design, engineering and construction of the Premises. Tenant may use up to \$3/RSF for soft costs associated with their moving expenses.

Operating Expenses And Real Estate Tax Escalations:

Tenant will pay its pro rata share of increases in operating expenses and real estate taxes over a 2015 base year, grossed up to 95% occupancy.

Operating Expense History

2012 - \$8.89/RSF 2013 - \$9.13/RSF 2014 est. - \$9.15/RSF

Real Estate Tax History

2012 - \$2.54/RSF 2013 - \$2.61/RSF 2014 est. - \$2.42/RSF

Construction

Management Fee:

Improvement work may be performed by Landlord or Tenant, at Tenant's option. Tenant shall select contractors and subcontractors for the design and construction of the Premises if Tenant performs its own construction, subject to Landlord's reasonable approval. A 3% construction management fee will be payable for initial construction of the Premises if Landlord performs the construction. If Tenant performs improvements, it shall have 120 days from delivery to complete the work. Space is currently available.

Prior Access:

Landlord shall permit Tenant and its vendors to access the Premises without triggering rent commencement for the purpose of installing furniture, fixtures and equipment provided it does not interfere with Landlord's ability to complete construction.



Space Planning

Allowance: Landlord will reimburse Tenant up to \$.12/USF for Tenants' architect to

perform a test fit plan in addition to the Tenant Improvement Allowance.

Right of First Offer: So long as Tenant is in full compliance with the terms & conditions of the

lease and is not marketing more than 10% of the Premises for sublease, Tenant shall have an ongoing annual Right of First Offer for contiguous space on the 19th floor of the West Tower for the first 2 years of the lease term. In the event Tenant exercises it's Right within twenty four (24) months from initial occupancy, the expansion space shall be leased at Tenant's then current rental rate with a proportionate amount of TI but does not include free rent. ROFO space taken after the second lease year

will be at FMR (Fair Market Rent). Tenant shall receive 90 days to construct improvements in any ROFO space. Tenant's ROFO rights shall be subordinate to existing rights of current tenants and to future renewal

rights of tenants signed in the ROFO space during Tenant's quiet period.

Holdover: In the event of any holdover, Tenant will be subject to a penalty equal to

150% of the then current monthly rent plus any consequential damages.

Assignment & Sublease: Tenant may sublease or assign all or any portion of the Premises with

> Landlord's consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Tenant may, with prior notice to Landlord, assign its interest in the Lease to an entity which shall be a successor to Tenant either by merger or consolidation, or to a purchaser of all or substantially all of Tenant's assets, subject to certain terms and conditions to be set forth in the lease.

Signage:		Tenant				
	Landlord Type Exclus	ive	Available	Logo	Lighted	Expense
	Monument on 15 th	N	Υ	N	Υ	Υ
	Lobby Directory	N	Υ	N	N	Υ
	Full Floor Elevator Lobby	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ	N

Lease Renewal



Option: By providing Landlord with 15 months prior written notice, Tenant will

have the right to renew its lease for one (1) five (5) year term at Fair

Market Value.

Storage: Subject to availability, Tenant may lease storage space at \$13 per rentable

square foot, net of electric, HVAC and cleaning, with 21/2 % annual

increases.

Security Deposit: Subject to review of financials. Landlord requests credit documentation

from Tenant in the form of an annual report of the last three years of

audited financial statements and shall base its decision about

securitization after analysis of said financial information. Please provide

this documentation as soon as possible.

Parking: The building contains an independently operated 400 car parking facility.

Monthly reserved and unreserved spaces are currently available.

After Hours

HVAC: Overtime HVAC is currently charged at a rate of \$95/hour.

Compliance With Laws:

Landlord represents and warrants that Centre Square is maintained in accordance with all applicable government regulations, codes, rules or laws, including, but not limited to, the American with Disabilities Act and NFPA 101, Code for Safety of Life. Landlord will be responsibility for placing and keeping Centre Square (excluding the Premises) and all building systems in compliance with all applicable Government regulations, codes, rules and laws. The cost of compliance with any such regulations, codes or laws enacted prior to the Commencement Date will

not be included in Operating Expenses.

In-Place Power Redundancy:

The Centre Square complex is served by four (4) separate electrical feeds from four (4) separate utility substations. Two of the four independent utility feeders serve each office tower. Redundant power in each tower is

accomplished by connection with an automatic transfer system.

Deregulated electricity is provided by PECO Energy. Primary service from the street is four 13.2 kv, 3 phase, 3 wire services, distributed from the M1

Mechanical levels in the East and West Towers. Secondary service consists of 480v, 3 phase, 3 wire panels located at various areas of the

complex.



Real Estate Agent/

Commission:

Landlord recognizes Jon Sarkisian and CBRE as the representative for Tenant for this lease. Landlord will pay Tenant's broker a commission equal to four percent (4%) of the aggregate lease consideration for years one through ten. Tenant broker's commission shall be payable 50% upon lease signing and 50% upon Tenant's occupancy.

Confidentiality/ Disclaimer:

The contents of this proposal are confidential and are not to be reproduced or distributed to any person or entity without the prior written consent of the Landlord or used for any purpose other than initial evaluation as indicated above. It is understood that this letter merely summarizes certain proposals and neither party shall be legally bound by any of the information contained herein until a mutually acceptable lease has been fully executed by both Landlord and Tenant.



CENTRE SQUARE PROPERTY FACT SHEET

ARCHITECT: Vincent G. Kling & Associates.

STRUCTURAL Farkas, Barron & Partners.

ENGINEER:

MECHANICAL Jaros, Baum & Bolles.

ENGINEER:

SITE DATA: Lot is bounded by Market Street and Ranstead Street, 15th

Street and 16th Street. The lot size is 366'0" East to West and 286'0" North to South. Total square footage of the lot

is 104,676 square feet.

CONSTRUCTION AGE: Approximately 35 years old. Construction began in 1971,

with the first full year of occupancy in 1974. A lobby renovation/upgrade including plaza, sidewalks, and elevators was completed in 1990 and again in 2007.

STRUCTURE: Reinforced poured concrete structure and two-way

reinforced pan deck (waffle).

NUMBER OF FLOORS: 36 in the East Tower

43 in the West Tower

FLOOR HEIGHT: Average dimension from deck to bottom of waffle slab in

both towers is 10'8".

COLUMN SPACING/ Both towers have bays laid out 30'0" wide by 20'0" long

BAY DEPTH: (column to column). West Tower is twelve 20'0" bays by

30'0" bays. East Tower is nine 20'0" bays by four 30'0"

bays.

FLOOR LOAD: Office areas – 60 lbs/square foot (live load).

Commercial areas – 100lbs/square foot (live load). Mechanical areas – 200 lbs/square foot (live load). Parking areas – 75 lbs/square foot (live load).



FIRE TOWERS: Four fire towers are located in each of the East and West

Towers, at the four corners of the core area. Re-entry floors are located on alternating floors. Each tower is equipped with motion detectors, as well as sonic alarms

throughout.

WET COLUMNS: West Tower: Columns E-10, E-12, M-10 and M-12

East Tower: Columns B-2, B-4, 1-2, 1-4.

LOADING DOCK: Six loading dock bays located on the South side of the

complex entered via 15th Street and Ranstead Street. Loading dock has direct access to freight elevators #1, #2 and #3. Loading dock also houses the trash compactor for

the complex.

ELEVATORS: Westinghouse Elevators maintained by Schindler Elevator Corp.

Passenger Elevator:

West Tower – 22 elevators East Tower – 17 elevators

West Tower – 2 elevators (41st to 43rd floors)

Garage – 2 elevators

Elevator Speed

High Rise – 1,000 ft/min Mid Rise – 800 ft/min Mid-Low Rise – 500 ft/min

Freight Elevators:

West Tower – 1 elevator to all levels
East Tower – 1 elevator to all levels

Loading dock – 2 elevators

Cab data (FE1 and FE4):

Door opening - 53.5" by 94.5

Cab dimensions – 79.75" wide by 120.5" high by 71.25 deep

Load capacity – 3,500 lbs

Speed – 800 ft/min



LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS:

Control Room:

Centre Square's control room is located on the ground floor at the base of the East Tower. At this location, all fire, sprinkler, and security systems are monitored. This room is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, including all holidays.

Fire Alarm Systems:

Simplex Fire Management System provides central monitoring of all pull stations, smoke detectors and sprinkler systems throughout the complex, including a two-way firemen communication system. The complex is monitored by, an outside central station, which also notifies the fire department. Project Engineer: Koffel Associates.

Fire Sprinkler Systems:

Fully sprinklered and in operation. A variance was granted by the City for the Galleria common area. Project Engineer: Maida Engineering

Emergency Generators:

There are two emergency generators for the Complex. One is located at the loading dock and is dedicated to the East Tower and the other is located on the M1 level of the West Tower and is dedicated to the West Tower. The generators handle all Life Safety Systems, Emergency Communications, Emergency Lighting, and Elevators. The generators are tested annually per Philadelphia Fire Code under full load conditions.

East Tower
Make: Katolight
Fuel: Diesel

Operating Data: 750 KW, 938 KVA, 480 volts

<u>West Tower</u> Make: Caterpillar Fuel: Diesel



Operating Data: 675 KW, 844 KVA, 480 volts

Diesel Fire Pumps:

Two are located on the P1 Parking level. These are redundant systems in that one pump is needed for a fire emergency and one is backup. Each pump has an output of 750 gallons per minute, at 265 psi.

Wet Standpipe System:

This system is for use by the Fire Department. Connections are located at each floor at each fire tower door location.

HVAC:

Heating:

Complex is heated by steam generated by Trigen Philadelphia via the City Steam Loop. West Tower & Galleria are heated by circulated air tempered by the steam heat through a VAV system at interior areas and though individual two pipe induction units at perimeter areas. East Tower is similar to the West Tower and Galleria except the perimeter is heated via individual 4-Pipe fan coil units with centrally located electric boilers which serve as an alternate heat supply to the Trigen Steam supply.

Air Conditioning:

The Galleria is cooled by circulated air tempered by the chillers. West Tower system employs DDC controlled VAV boxes for the interior areas and two pipe induction units at the perimeter. East Tower system includes DDC controlled VAV boxes for the interior areas and individual 4-Pipe fan coil units for the perimeter

Building Automation System:

Equipment Supplier: Siemens Building Automation System to a PC Based network system utilizing smart panels to record and monitor thousands of points throughout Centre Square. These panels are then accessed as required with information being downloaded to the network. Other building systems such as security guard rounds tracking, incident reporting, inventory and fire/safety can be integrated into the network and monitored unilaterally. CAD graphics are utilized to provide more accurate and precise floor plans and diagrams to assist



in monitoring the buildings, as well as providing a professional presentation to prospective tenants.

LIGHTING:

Galleria – Fluorescent and incandescent (277 and 120 volt)
West Tower office areas – Fluorescent and incandescent (277 and 120 volt)
East Tower office areas – Fluorescent and incandescent (277 and 120 volt)

UTILITIES:

Electricity:

Deregulated electricity is provided by PECO Energy

Primary service from the street is four 13.2 kv, 3 phase, 3 wire services, distributed from the M1 Mechanical levels in the East and West Towers. Secondary service consists of 480v, 3 phase, 4 wire panels located at various areas of the complex.

Power Redundancy:

The Centre Square complex is served by four (4) separate electrical feeds from four (4) separate utility substations. Two of the four independent utility feeders serve each tower. Redundant power in each tower is accomplished by connection with an automatic transfer system.

Steam:

Provided by Trigen Philadelphia.

Service is provided though one 12" high-pressure steam line located at the corner of 15th Street and Ranstead Street.

Water:

Provided by The City of Philadelphia.

Service is provided through one 20" water line located at Market Street at the West Tower.

Gas:

Provided by Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW).



Service is provided through a 4" gas line located at 16th Street feeding the concourse restaurant area, as well as a tenant emergency generator located on the roof of the West Tower.

Sewer:

West Tower: Two 15" combined house traps located at 16th Street. East Tower: One 15" combined house trap located at 15th Street and one 12" combined house trap located at Ranstead Street. Sewer Ejectors handle west from the concourse, P1 and P2 levels to the City sewer system.

STANDARD BUILDING HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 6: 00 p.m. Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Holidays accepted.

Access to the buildings and premises is available 24 hours per day, 365 days per

year.

BUILDING SECURITY:

Lobby security attendant 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

After hours card key access at the 15th Street entry doors.

Elevators are equipped with card-access capabilities.

CCTV cameras have been installed to monitor the lobby and common areas within the complex

AMENITIES:

Parking:

Parking garage is located on the lower levels of the building with direct access to the concourse and lobby levels. Parking spaces consist of 402 spaces.

Transportation:

Direct access to SEPTA inner city subways as well as regional rail lines. Direct access to SEPTA bus lines at 15th & Market Streets. Taxicab stand located at 15th & Market Streets.

From: Kevin Sheehan [ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Sent: 11/18/2014 4:37:07 PM

To: Justin Kenyon (JKenyon@njeda.com) [JKenyon@njeda.com]

CC: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu
Subject: Cooper - updated cost benefit analysis

Attachments: GrowNJ Cost Benefit Analysis - Cooper - 2014-11-18.xls

Justin. Attached is an updated Cost Benefit analysis for the Cooper application.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kevin D. Sheehan, Esquire PARKER McCAY P.A.

P: 856-985-4020 F: 856-552-1427

ksheehan@parkermccay.com www.parkermccay.com

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NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS VERSION 1.03

APPLICANT:	The Cooper Health System	
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Date: 11/10/2014

Grow NJ Term: 10 Years

LOCATION INFORMATION:

Project Leasting (City, State)		EW JERSEY LOCATION	ALTERNATE LOCATION	SIZE
Project Location (City, State)		Camden , NJ		
Location Size in Sq. Ft.		123,585 Sq. Ft.	120,000 Sq. Ft.	DIFFERENCE 3,585 Sq. Ft.
Purchase (P)/Gross Lease (GL)/Triple Net Lease (TNL)/ Owned Facility (OF)/Construction (C)		GL	GL	
Building Cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$	28.00 /Sq. Ft.	\$ 23.50 /Sq. Ft.	
ONE-TIME UPFRONT COSTS:				COST DIFFERENCE
Land Acquisition Cost (if separate from building)	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Building Acquisition Cost	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Building Construction Costs	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Building Renovation Costs	\$	2,600,000.00	\$ 4,800,000.00	\$ (2,200,000.00)
Machinery and Equipment Acquisition Cost			\$ -	\$ -
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	\$	5,400,000.00	\$ 5,400,000.00	\$ -
Employee Relocations Costs	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Company Moving Costs	\$	480,000.00	\$ 480,000.00	\$ -
Lease Termination Costs	\$	3,900,000.00	\$ 3,900,000.00	\$ -
Sale of Owned Facility (Net of any Mortgage Amount)	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Other One-Time Upfront Costs - Demolition/Temp Rental Space	\$	650,000.00	\$ 720,000.00	\$ (70,000.00)
Total One-Time Upfront Cos	sts =	13,030,000.00	\$ 15,300,000.00	\$ (2,270,000.00)

ONGOING ANNUAL COSTS:				Start	End	Cost		Start	End	Cost	
				Month	Month	Frequency		Month	Month	Frequency	
Annual Rental Costs		\$	3,460,380.00	1	180		\$ 2,820,000.00	1	180	\$	640,380.00
Annual Real Estate Taxes				1	180			1	180	\$	-
Annual Property Insurance Costs				1	180			1	180	\$	-
Annual Building Maintenance Costs				1	180		\$ -	1	180	\$	-
Annual Electricity Costs				1	180		\$ 264,000.00	1	180	\$	(264,000.00)
Annual Payroll Costs				1	180			1	180	\$	-
Lease of Owned Facility (for a partia	l sublease or due to relocation)	\$	-	1	180		\$ -	1	180	\$	-
Other Annual Ongoing Costs -		\$	-	1	180		\$ -	1	180	\$	-
Other Annual Ongoing Costs -	Description	\$	-	1	180		\$ -	1	180	\$	-
Other Annual Ongoing Costs -	Description	\$	-	1	180		\$ -	1	180	\$	-
	Total Annual Ongoing Costs =	= \$	3,460,380.00	_		•	\$ 3,084,000.00	_		\$	376,380.00

Amount in Today's Dollars (NPV at 6%) that New Jersey is More Expensive than the Alternative Location Over the 10 Year Grant Term = \$ 555,153.86 Amount in Today's Dollars (NPV at 6%) that New Jersey is More Expensive than the Alternative Location Over the 15 Year Grant Commitment Duration = \$ 1,446,862.74

ASSUMPTIONS:

- 1 Existing leases costs include weighted average of 4 locations. Operating costs are for real estate only and do not include payroll or other business expenses
- 2 Lease termination costs include remaining obligation on 4 leased properties
- 3 Proposed location lease costs include \$17 NNN + \$11/sf opex. Entered as GL for simplicity
- 4 Alternate location is based on proposed terms from Brandywine Realty Trust for 1900 Market St
- 5 Construction cost for space includes remaining capital cost AFTER landlord TI allowance. Indicative terms on sheet 3 of worksheet

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Given that selecting the proposed New Jersey location is \$555,153.86 more expensive than the alternative location and the potential incentive grant may not completely cover the cost differential, please provide insight into the other factors that make New Jersey competitive despite the additional costs:

- 1 Additional SF leased allows for relocation of 52 jobs from other camden locations. Space vacated on the health sciences campus allows for expansion of clinical services.
- 2 Consolidation of support services to this location allows for consolidation of IT staff in single location and better team support
- 3 Consolidation of support services to Camden affords these offices and staff closer geographic proximity to the hospital and supports ongoing Camden redevelopmen efforts
- 4 Anticpated that a relocation out of state would cause some of these positions to be vacated due to inconvenience, additional commuting time. Positions would likely be filled in location of new office
- 5
- 6
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6.00% = Discount Rate for Net Present Value

Grow NJ Term: 10

	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
New Jersey							
One-Time Upfront Costs \$	13,030,000.00						
Annual Rental Costs \$	-	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00
Annual Real Estate Taxes \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Property Insurance Costs \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Building Maintenance Costs \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Electricity Costs \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Payroll Costs \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lease of Owned Facility (for a partial sublease or due to relocation) \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Annual Ongoing Costs - \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Annual Ongoing Costs - \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Annual Ongoing Costs - \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total NJ Costs \$	13,030,000.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00
Alternate Location							
One-Time Upfront Costs \$	15,300,000.00						
Annual Rental Costs \$	-	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 235,000.00
Annual Real Estate Taxes \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Property Insurance Costs \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Building Maintenance Costs \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Electricity Costs \$	-	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
Annual Payroll Costs \$		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lease of Owned Facility (for a partial sublease or due to relocation) \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Annual Ongoing Costs - \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Annual Ongoing Costs - \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Annual Ongoing Costs - \$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Alternative Location Costs \$	15,300,000.00	\$ 257,000.00	\$ 257,000.00	\$ 257,000.00	\$ 257,000.00	\$ 257,000.00	\$ 257,000.00
Difference \$	(2,270,000.00)	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00

		VERTICAL L	OOKUP TABLES	
	NPV for Grant		NPV for 1.5 Times	
<u>Years</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Years</u>	Grant Term	<u>Years</u>
1	(\$1,905,572.20)	1.5	(\$1,731,376.13)	6
2	(\$1,562,315.70)	3.0	(\$1,239,000.58)	7
3	(\$1,239,000.58)	4.5	(\$788,902.28)	8
4	(\$934,468.33)	6.0	(\$377,451.15)	9
5	(\$647,627.79)	7.5	(\$1,328.79)	10
6	(\$377,451.15)	9.0	\$342,498.26	11
7	(\$122,970.32)	10.5	\$656,802.99	
8	\$116,726.52	12.0	\$944,120.32	
9	\$342,498.26	13.5	\$1,206,767.48	
10	\$555,153.86	15.0	\$1,446,862.74	

Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12	Month 13	Month 14	Month 15	Month 16	Month 17
\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00
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\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00	\$ 31,365.00

NPV for Grant

Term Plus 5 Years (\$377,451.15) (\$122,970.32) \$116,726.52 \$342,498.26

\$555,153.86 \$755,455.31

	Month 18		Month 19		Month 20		Month 21		Month 22		Month 23		Month 24		Month 25		Month 26		Month 27		Month 28
\$	288,365.00	\$	288,365.00	\$	288,365.00	\$	288,365.00	\$	288,365.00	\$	288,365.00	\$	288,365.00	\$	288,365.00	\$	288,365.00	\$	288,365.00	\$	288,365.00
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\$	31,365.00	\$	31,365.00	\$	31,365.00	\$	31,365.00	\$	31,365.00	\$	31,365.00	\$	31,365.00	\$	31,365.00	\$	31,365.00	\$	31,365.00	\$	31,365.00

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\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00
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Month 51	Month 52	Month 53	Month 54	Month 55	Month 56	Month 57	Month 58	Month 59	Month 60	Month 61
\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00
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\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00
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Month 73	Month 74	Month 75	Month 76	Month 77	Month 78	Month 79	Month 80	Month 81	Month 82	Month 83
\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00
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Month 84	Month 85	Month 86	Month 87	Month 88	Month 89	Month 90	Month 91	Month 92	Month 93	Month 94
\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00	\$ 288,365.00
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	Month 128		Month 129		Month 130		Month 131		Month 132		Month 133		Month 134		Month 135		Month 136		Month 137		Month 138
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	Month 150		Month 151		Month 152		Month 153		Month 154		Month 155		Month 156		Month 157		Month 158		Month 159		Month 160
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	Month 161		Month 162		Month 163		Month 164		Month 165		Month 166		Month 167		Month 168		Month 169		Month 170		Month 171
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Existing Cooper Facilities

					remaining
		annual			obligation
		occupancy	/		beyond
Property	SF	cost	\$/sf	Exp	1/1/2015
3 Executive, Cherry Hill	61,	136 1,250,0	000 20.45	9/30/2017	3,437,500
10000 commerce pkwy, Mt Laurel	20,	000 590,0	29.50	6/30/2015	295,000
200 Federal St, Camden	3,	130 81,0	25.88	3/31/2016	101,250
2 Acquarium Dr, Camden	4,	992 105,0	21.03	9/30/2015	78,750
Total	89,	258 2,026,0	000 22.70		3,912,500
Proposal from 1900 Market St, Phila	delphia				
size	120,	000			
rent	29	9.50 3,540,0	000		
steps	2.	.00% annually			
opex		-	-		
RE taxes					
utilities	2	2.20 264,0	000		
TI allowance	45	5.50 5,460,0	000		
Quote is 10 yr term. Pulling TI out, (4	4.50, 8%, 10	yrs = 6.50) red	uces rent to 23	.50	

	1900 Market St	t, Philly	L3
	120,000		126,000
Construction	40.00	4,800,000	20.63 2,600,000 Low estimate based on walkthrouh
TI allowance	-	-	- none
Net construction	40.00	4,800,000	20.63 -
A&E	6.00	720,000	5.16 650,000
FF&E	30.00	3,600,000	28.57 3,600,000
IT	15.00	1,800,000	14.29 1,800,000
Relocation	4.00	480,000	3.81 480,000
total		11,400,000	9,130,000 antcipate that actual costs will be \$12M, conservative es



From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com]

Sent: 12/2/2014 3:02:09 PM

To: Bush, Andrew [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

CC: Justin Kenyon [JKenyon@njeda.com]; Kevin Sheehan [ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Thanks..do you have something in writing for the Camden lease?

And I'll address the jobs also, if you are saying there are now 17 new jobs not moving from suburbs..in order to get credit for new hires the minimum is 19...19 more jobs is just over \$40 million again...

- Teresa 609-858-6752

----Original Message----

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 5:13 PM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

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I will verify the occupancy dates of each space.

From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 4:43 PM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Thanks, it is very important that I have some back-up to the lease terms as presented in the Cost Benefit analysis - it's all verbal at this point?

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Thanks, Teresa 609-858-6752

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 11:15 AM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

ieresa,

Sorry for the delay in the response. Please see responses below.

Regards, Andy

Andrew Bush VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital 856.342.3083

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 4:51 PM

To: Bush, Andrew Cc: Justin Kenyon

Subject: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Hi Andrew.

I am processing Cooper's Grow Application for review by EDA Board. I have a couple of questions:

- 1. Please provide the back-up on the proposed terms for each of the locations, NJ and PA, ie term sheets, letters of intent and/or draft lease agreements.

 I am touring alternate locations in PA on Wednesday and hope to have term sheets by the end of the week.
- I wanted to verify the number of jobs 407 total retained full-time jobs within NJ Comprising of 355 relocated from outside of Camden and then 52 retained jobs within Camden? I also saw 435 jobs retained in the application. Our application was based on 407 FTE positions relocated to this facility. The 435 jobs included ALL jobs including part time positions. Kevin Sheehan's email to Justin on Nov 26th indicated that we intend to modify our application to remove the 52 Camden jobs but add an additional NEW 8 jobs in IT to this location. the revised totals 363 jobs @ \$11,000/yr or \$3,993,000 per year.

Regarding the 52 retained jobs within Camden, please provide the job titles for these positions

as well as where from within Camden they are relocating from. Please also provide a more detailed explanation about what this portion of the project is - what type of clinical services? These jobs are non-clinical and are removed per the modification above but we do intend to move these positions. Descriptions and locations as follows: Internal Auditor Process Improvement Black Belts Applications analyst Director of IT Clinical applications analyst Compliance Chief Compliance Officer Paralegal Secretary Lawyer Community Development Foundation Development Accountant Employment Consultant HR Director Project Management Director of Facilities AVP Facilities And the addresses in Camden are

1 Cooper Plaza 3 Cooper Plaza 401 Haddon Ave 2 Aquarium Drive 200 Federal Street 618 Benson St.

4. What is the number of full-time NJ employees as of end of the last tax period, 12/31/13? Is it 4,658? Full time NJ employees was 4,646 as of 12/31/2013

Thanks, Teresa

Teresa Wells, Sr. Finance Officer
NJEDA, 36 West State Street, P.O. Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625
(v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699
twells@njeda.com<mailto:twells@njeda.com>

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From: Kevin Sheehan [ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Sent: 11/26/2014 2:34:45 PM

To: Shirley, Douglas [shirley-douglas@CooperHealth.edu]; bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu

CC: Philip A. Norcross [pnorcross@parkermccav.com]

Subject: FW: Cooper

Doug & Andy. Please see the email below from Justin Kenyon of EDA.

Andy. Can you get the information Teresa Wells requested to her this morning.

Doug. Any chance to move our 1:30 call up to an earlier time. I am good any time except 11:00-11:30.

Kevin D. Sheehan, Esquire PARKER McCAY P.A.

P: 856-985-4020 F: 856-552-1427

ksheehan@parkermccay.com www.parkermccay.com

From: Justin Kenyon [mailto:JKenyon@njeda.com] Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 9:10 AM

To: Kevin Sheehan Subject: Cooper

Kevin,

Good morning. Any thought given to what we discussed a few days ago? Teresa Wells is the analyst on our side and she needs to know what we are looking at in terms of project scope/grow dollar amount because our next incentive meeting is Monday so she needs to wrap up her analysis in the next few hours. I believe she emailed Andrew Bush some questions a few days ago and to the best of my knowledge she has not received responses. Also, if this is going to be an over \$40MM request the December board might not it be possible since that process takes a lot longer in terms of analysis and we still need to have the CEO meeting to discuss the over \$40MM aspect, would also need an approval fee check early next week for half a percent of the award amount being sought which is our policy for any over \$40MM project, in this case we would need a check roughly in the amount of \$220,000. Let me know which way things are leaning if you can. Thanks.

Justin

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

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From: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: 12/2/2014 3:02:59 PM **To**: twells@njeda.com

CC: JKenyon@njeda.com; ksheehan@parkermccay.com

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

We have a draft lease. Would you prefer a draft lease (unexecuted) or an executed LOI?

----Original Message----

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:02 AM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Thanks..do you have something in writing for the Camden lease?

And I'll address the jobs also, if you are saying there are now 17 new jobs not moving from suburbs..in order to get credit for new hires the minimum is 19...19 more jobs is just over \$40 million again...

- Teresa 609-858-6752

----Original Message----

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 5:13 PM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

All quoted numbers are verbal from prospective landlords in Pennyslvania. I expect to have proposals to justify the numbers by the end of the week.

I will verify the occupancy dates of each space.

From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 4:43 PM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

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Thanks, Teresa 609-858-6752

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 11:15 AM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Teresa,

Sorry for the delay in the response. Please see responses below.

Regards, Andy

Andrew Bush
VP of Real Estate

VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 4:51 PM

To: Bush, Andrew Cc: Justin Kenyon

Subject: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Hi Andrew,

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- 1. Please provide the back-up on the proposed terms for each of the locations, NJ and PA, ie term sheets, letters of intent and/or draft lease agreements.

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- 3. Regarding the 52 retained jobs within Camden, please provide the job titles for these positions as well as where from within Camden they are relocating from. Please also provide a more detailed explanation about what this portion of the project is - what type of clinical services? These jobs are non-clinical and are removed per the modification above but we do intend to move these positions. Descriptions and locations as follows: Internal Auditor Process Improvement Black Belts Applications analyst Director of IT Clinical applications analyst Compliance Chief Compliance Officer Paralegal Secretary Lawyer Community Development Foundation Development Accountant Employment Consultant HR Director Project Management Director of Facilities AVP Facilities And the addresses in Camden are 1 Cooper Plaza 3 Cooper Plaza 401 Haddon Ave
- 4. What is the number of full-time NJ employees as of end of the last tax period, 12/31/13? Is it 4,658? Full time NJ employees was 4,646 as of 12/31/2013

Thanks, Teresa

2 Aquarium Drive 200 Federal Street 618 Benson St.

Teresa Wells, Sr. Finance Officer
NJEDA, 36 West State Street, P.O. Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625
(v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699
twells@njeda.com<mailto:twells@njeda.com>

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From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com]

Sent: 12/2/2014 3:13:29 PM

To: Bush, Andrew [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

CC: Justin Kenyon [JKenyon@njeda.com]; Kevin Sheehan [ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

I'll be "greedy"..can I have both? Thanks

----Original Message----

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:03 AM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

We have a draft lease. Would you prefer a draft lease (unexecuted) or an executed LOI?

----Original Message----

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:02 AM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

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- Teresa 609-858-6752

----Original Message----

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 5:13 PM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

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I will verify the occupancy dates of each space.

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Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Teresa, Sorry for the delay in the response. Please see responses below. Regards, Andy

Andrew Bush VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital 856.342.3083

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 4:51 PM

To: Bush, Andrew Cc: Justin Kenyon

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From: Kevin Sheehan [ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Sent: 12/2/2014 3:57:46 PM

To: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com]; Bush, Andrew [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

CC: Justin Kenyon [JKenyon@njeda.com]
Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Teresa. Cooper does not need 19 new jobs in order to get credit for those jobs because it qualified for credits under the statute if it moves 27 retained jobs to the site.

The statute NJSA 34:1B-244 says:

"To be eligible for ANY tax credits pursuant to P.L.2011, c.149 (C.34:1B-242 et al.), a business's chief executive officer or equivalent officer shall demonstrate to the authority, at the time of application, that:

(1) the business, expressly including its landlord or seller, will make, acquire, or lease a capital investment equal to, or greater than, the applicable amount set forth in subsection b. of this section at a qualified business facility at which it will:

(a)retain full-time jobs in an amount equal to or greater than the applicable number set forth in subsection c. of this section;

(b)create new full-time jobs in an amount equal to or greater than the applicable number set forth in subsection c. of this section; OR

(c)in combination, retain full-time jobs and create new full-time jobs in an amount equal to or greater than the applicable number set forth in subsection c. of this section;"

....

"c. The minimum number of new OR retained full-time jobs required to be eligible under the program shall be as follows: (2) for a business engaged primarily in a targeted industry other than technology startup or a manufacturing company, a minimum of 25 new OR 35 retained full-time jobs;" [The numbers are reduced by a 25% in South Jersey.]

Once they hit the minimum number of EITHER new OR retained jobs, they are entitled to credits for all jobs. There is nothing in the statute that requires them to hit 19 NEW jobs before it can get credits for all new jobs after it has met the minimum number of retained jobs necessary to qualify for ANY tax credits. Therefore, if they are providing 17 new jobs, on top of the 365 retained jobs, all new jobs qualify for tax credits.

Kevin D. Sheehan, Esquire

PARKER McCAY P.A.

P: 856-985-4020

F: 856-552-1427

ksheehan@parkermccay.com

www.parkermccay.com

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Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

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- Teresa 609-858-6752

----Original Message----

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 5:13 PM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

All quoted numbers are verbal from prospective landlords in Pennyslvania. I expect to have proposals to justify the numbers by the end of the week.

I will verify the occupancy dates of each space.

From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 4:43 PM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

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Thanks, Teresa 609-858-6752

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 11:15 AM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Teresa,
Sorry for the delay in the response. Please see responses below.
Regards,
Andy

Andrew Bush VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital 856.342.3083

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 4:51 PM

To: Bush, Andrew Cc: Justin Kenyon

Subject: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Hi Andrew,

I am processing Cooper's Grow Application for review by EDA Board. I have a couple of questions:

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3. Regarding the 52 retained jobs within Camden, please provide the job titles for these positions as well as where from within Camden they are relocating from. Please also provide a more detailed explanation about what this portion of the project is - what type of clinical services?

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AVP Facilities And the addresses in Camden are

1 Cooper Plaza3 Cooper Plaza401 Haddon Ave2 Aquarium Drive200 Federal Street618 Benson St

4. What is the number of full-time NJ employees as of end of the last tax period, 12/31/13? Is it 4,658? Full time NJ employees was 4,646 as of 12/31/2013

Thanks, Teresa

Teresa Wells, Sr. Finance Officer NJEDA, 36 West State Street, P.O. Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625 (v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699 twells@njeda.com<mailto:twells@njeda.com>

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From: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: 12/2/2014 3:18:28 PM **To**: twells@njeda.com

CC: JKenyon@njeda.com; ksheehan@parkermccay.com

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

I have a draft lease that I can send by the end of the day. LOI will take a few days as we will have to create to reflect current terms

----Original Message----

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:13 AM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

I'll be "greedy"..can I have both? Thanks

----Original Message----

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:03 AM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

We have a draft lease. Would you prefer a draft lease (unexecuted) or an executed LOI?

----Original Message----

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:02 AM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Thanks..do you have something in writing for the Camden lease?

And I'll address the jobs also, if you are saying there are now 17 new jobs not moving from suburbs..in order to get credit for new hires the minimum is 19...19 more jobs is just over \$40 million again...

- Teresa 609-858-6752

----Original Message----

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 5:13 PM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

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1 Cooper Plaza

Project Management Director of Facilities

AVP Facilities And the addresses in Camden are

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(v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699
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From: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: 12/1/2014 4:17:57 PM

To: macklin-eileen@CooperHealth.edu

Subject: FW: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

fyi

From: Bush, Andrew

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 11:15 AM

To: 'Teresa Wells'

Cc: Justin Kenyon; 'Kevin Sheehan'

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

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Andrew Bush

VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital 856.342.3083

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(v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699
twells@njeda.com

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From: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: 12/1/2014 4:15:06 PM **To**: twells@njeda.com

CC: JKenyon@njeda.com; ksheehan@parkermccay.com

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Teresa,

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Regards, Andy

Andrew Bush

VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital 856.342.3083

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(v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699
twells@njeda.com

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From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com]

Sent: 12/1/2014 4:51:37 PM

To: Justin Kenyon [JKenyon@njeda.com]; bush-andrew@cooperhealth.edu; 'ksheehan@parkermccay.com'

[ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Subject: RE: Cooper

Hello,

I ran the grant calculation at 363 jobs and it would change to \$10,750/yr or \$39,022,500. The bonus for large number of new and retained jobs decreases from \$750 to \$500 for jobs between 261 and 400.

Teresa Wells, Sr. Finance Officer NJEDA, 36 West State Street, P.O. Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625 (v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699 twells@njeda.com

From: Justin Kenyon

Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 1:29 PM

To: Teresa Wells Subject: Fwd: Cooper

I know you've probably left for the day but we can use this as a basis moving forward and can discuss on Monday. Thanks.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Kevin Sheehan

Date: 11/26/2014 1:05 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: Justin Kenyon

Cc: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu

Subject: RE: Cooper

Justin. Cooper will agree to remove the 52 jobs relocating from within Camden. They want to add 8 new jobs in IT at this location. That would change their application from 355 jobs to 363 jobs @ \$11,000/year or \$3,993000 per year.

Andy is getting the documentation, but he is not sure that he will be able to get it today given the holiday.

We will responds to Teresa's other questions in a separate email shortly.

Kevin D. Sheehan, Esquire PARKER McCAY P.A.

P: 856-985-4020 F: 856-552-1427

ksheehan@parkermccay.com www.parkermccay.com

From: Justin Kenyon [mailto:JKenyon@njeda.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 9:10 AM

To: Kevin Sheehan Subject: Cooper

Kevin,

Good morning. Any thought given to what we discussed a few days ago? Teresa Wells is the analyst on our side and she needs to know what we are looking at in terms of project scope/grow dollar amount because our next incentive meeting is Monday so she needs to wrap up her analysis in the next few hours. I believe she emailed Andrew Bush some questions a few days ago and to the best of my knowledge she has not received responses. Also, if this is going to be an over \$40MM request the December board might not it be possible since that process takes a lot longer in terms of analysis and we still need to have the CEO meeting to discuss the over \$40MM aspect, would also need an approval fee check early next week for half a percent of the award amount being sought which is our policy for any over \$40MM project, in this case we would need a check roughly in the amount of \$220,000. Let me know which way things are leaning if you can. Thanks.

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Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

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From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com]

Sent: 11/24/2014 9:51:01 PM

To: bush-andrew@cooperhealth.edu
CC: Justin Kenyon [JKenyon@njeda.com]
Subject: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

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From: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: 12/4/2014 6:18:32 PM **To**: twells@njeda.com

CC: JKenyon@njeda.com; ksheehan@parkermccay.com

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems
Attachments: Proposal - Doug Shirley Andy Bush.doc

Attached is the LOI for the L3 portion. The lease has not yet been updated to reflect these terms. PA alternate anticipated by the end of today.

----Original Message----

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Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

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CC: JKenyon@njeda.com; ksheehan@parkermccay.com

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

All quoted numbers are verbal from prospective landlords in Pennyslvania. I expect to have proposals to justify the numbers by the end of the week.

I will verify the occupancy dates of each space.

From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 4:43 PM

To: Bush, Andrew

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Thanks, it is very important that I have some back-up to the lease terms as presented in the Cost Benefit analysis – it's all verbal at this point?

I've also been asked to find out how long Cooper has leased space in Cherry Hill and Mt. Laurel...so from the leases you provided..since 1996 in Mt. Laurel and since 2005 in Cherry Hill?

Thanks, Teresa 609-858-6752

From: Bush, Andrew [mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 11:15 AM

To: Teresa Wells

Cc: Justin Kenyon; Kevin Sheehan

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Teresa

Sorry for the delay in the response. Please see responses below.

Regards, Andy

Andrew Bush VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital 856.342.3083

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 4:51 PM

To: Bush, Andrew Cc: Justin Kenyon

Subject: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

Hi Andrew,

I am processing Cooper's Grow Application for review by EDA Board. I have a couple of questions:

- 1. Please provide the back-up on the proposed terms for each of the locations, NJ and PA, ie term sheets, letters of intent and/or draft lease agreements.

 I am touring alternate locations in PA on Wednesday and hope to have term sheets by the end of the week.
- 2. I wanted to verify the number of jobs 407 total retained full-time jobs within NJ Comprising of 355 relocated from outside of Camden and then 52 retained jobs within Camden? I also saw 435 jobs retained in the application.

Our application was based on 407 FTE positions relocated to this facility. The 435 jobs included ALL jobs including part time positions. Kevin Sheehan's email to Justin on Nov 26th indicated that we intend to

modify our application to remove the 52 Camden jobs but add an additional NEW 8 jobs in IT to this location. the revised totals 363 jobs @ \$11,000/yr or \$3,993,000 per year.

Regarding the 52 retained jobs within Camden, please provide the job titles for these positions as well as where from within Camden they are relocating from. Please also provide a more detailed explanation about what this portion of the project is - what type of clinical services? These jobs are non-clinical and are removed per the modification above but we do intend to move these positions. Descriptions and locations as follows: Internal Auditor Process Improvement Black Belts Applications analyst Director of IT Clinical applications analyst Compliance Chief Compliance Officer Paralegal Secretary Lawyer Community Development Foundation Development Accountant Employment Consultant HR Director Project Management Director of Facilities AVP Facilities And the addresses in Camden are 1 Cooper Plaza 3 Cooper Plaza 401 Haddon Ave 2 Aquarium Drive 200 Federal Street 618 Benson St. 4. What is the number of full-time NJ employees as of end of the last tax period, 12/31/13? Is it 4,658? Full time NJ employees was 4,646 as of 12/31/2013Thanks, Teresa Teresa Wells, Sr. Finance Officer NJEDA, 36 West State Street, P.O. Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625 (v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699 twells@njeda.com<mailto:twells@njeda.com> Please consider the environment before printing this message. This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by MailScanner<http://www.mailscanner.info/>, and is believed to be clean. ********* This communication, including attachments, may contain information that is confidential. It constitutes non-public information intended to be conveyed only to the designated recipient(s). If the reader or recipient of this communication is not the intended recipient, employee, or agent of the intended recipient who is responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, or you believe that you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail or telephone and promptly delete this email, including attachments without reading them or saving them in any manner. The unauthorized use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this e-mail, including attachments, is prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: 12/2/2014 12:00:43 AM

To: twells@njeda.com; JKenyon@njeda.com; ksheehan@parkermccay.com

Subject: RE: Cooper

Teresa,

We recently approved an IT initiative that will add more than the 8 jobs mentioned below. We believe that we will add a minimum of 17 jobs, totaling 372 total new or relocated from outside the city of Camden. This change at \$10,750 per job would yield \$39,990,000.

Thanks

Thank:

From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com] Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 11:51 AM

To: Justin Kenyon; Bush, Andrew; 'ksheehan@parkermccay.com'

Subject: RE: Cooper

Hello,

I ran the grant calculation at 363 jobs and it would change to \$10,750/yr or \$39,022,500. The bonus for large number of new and retained jobs decreases from \$750 to \$500 for jobs between 261 and 400.

Teresa Wells, Sr. Finance Officer
NJEDA, 36 West State Street, P.O. Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625
(v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699
twells@njeda.com

From: Justin Kenyon

Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 1:29 PM

To: Teresa Wells Subject: Fwd: Cooper

I know you've probably left for the day but we can use this as a basis moving forward and can discuss on Monday. Thanks.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----From: Kevin Sheehan

Date:11/26/2014 1:05 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: Justin Kenyon

Cc: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu<mailto:bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu>

Subject: RE: Cooper

Justin. Cooper will agree to remove the 52 jobs relocating from within Camden. They want to add 8 new jobs in IT at this location. That would change their application from 355 jobs to 363 jobs @ \$11,000/year or \$3,993000 per year.

Andy is getting the documentation, but he is not sure that he will be able to get it today given the holiday.

We will responds to Teresa's other questions in a separate email shortly.

Kevin D. Sheehan, Esquire PARKER McCAY P.A. P: 856-985-4020 F: 856-552-1427

ksheehan@parkermccay.com<mailto:ksheehan@parkermccay.com>

www.parkermccay.com<http://www.parkermccay.com/>

From: Justin Kenyon [mailto:JKenyon@njeda.com] Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 9:10 AM

To: Kevin Sheehan Subject: Cooper

Kevin,

Good morning. Any thought given to what we discussed a few days ago? Teresa Wells is the analyst on our side and she needs to know what we are looking at in terms of project scope/grow dollar amount because our next incentive meeting is Monday so she needs to wrap up her analysis in the next few hours. I believe she emailed Andrew Bush some questions a few days ago and to the best of my knowledge she has not received responses. Also, if this is going to be an over \$40MM request the December board might not it be possible since that process takes a lot longer in terms of analysis and we still need to have the CEO meeting to discuss the over \$40MM aspect, would also need an approval fee check early next week for half a percent of the award amount being sought which is our policy for any over \$40MM project, in this case we would need a check roughly in the amount of \$220,000. Let me know which way things are leaning if you can. Thanks.

Justin

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

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From: shirley-douglas@CooperHealth.edu [shirley-douglas@CooperHealth.edu]

Sent: 12/1/2014 11:39:33 PM

To: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu
CC: ksheehan@parkermccay.com

Subject: Re: Cooper

Sure.

Douglas E. Shirley SEVP & Chief Financial Officer Cooper University Health Care One Cooper Plaza Camden, NJ 08103 Office (856) 342-2443

On Dec 1, 2014, at 11:57 AM, Bush, Andrew < bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu > wrote:

From: Teresa Wells [mailto:twells@njeda.com]
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 11:52 AM

To: Justin Kenyon; Bush, Andrew; 'ksheehan@parkermccay.com'

Subject: RE: Cooper

Hello,

I ran the grant calculation at 363 jobs and it would change to \$10,750/yr or \$39,022,500. The bonus for large number of new and retained jobs decreases from \$750 to \$500 for jobs between 261 and 400.

Teresa Wells, Sr. Finance Officer
NJEDA, 36 West State Street, P.O. Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625
(v) 609-858-6752 / (f) 609-278-4699
twells@njeda.com

From: Justin Kenyon

Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 1:29 PM

To: Teresa Wells Subject: Fwd: Cooper

I know you've probably left for the day but we can use this as a basis moving forward and can discuss on Monday. Thanks.

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To: Justin Kenyon

Cc: bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu

Subject: RE: Cooper

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ksheehan@parkermccay.com www.parkermccay.com

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From: Teresa Wells [twells@njeda.com]

Sent: 12/1/2014 9:43:02 PM

To: Bush, Andrew [bush-andrew@CooperHealth.edu]

CC: Justin Kenyon [JKenyon@njeda.com]; Kevin Sheehan [ksheehan@parkermccay.com]

Subject: RE: NJEDA Grow/Cooper Health Systems

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VP of Real Estate and Facilities Cooper University Hospital 856.342.3083

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These jobs are non-clinical and are removed per the modification above but we do intend to move these positions.

Descriptions and locations as follows:

Internal Auditor

Process Improvement Black Belts

Applications analyst

Director of IT

Clinical applications analyst

Compliance

Chief Compliance Officer

Paralegal

Secretary

Lawyer

Community Development

Foundation Development

Accountant

Employment Consultant

HR Director

Project Management

Director of Facilities

AVP Facilities And the addresses in Camden are

1 Cooper Plaza

3 Cooper Plaza

401 Haddon Ave

2 Aquarium Drive

200 Federal Street

618 Benson St.

4. What is the number of full-time NJ employees as of end of the last tax period, 12/31/13? Is it 4,658? Full time NJ employees was 4,646 as of 12/31/2013

Thanks, Teresa

Teresa Wells, Sr. Finance Officer
NJEDA, 36 West State Street, P.O. Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625
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