

News

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HOME

NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS

ENTERTAINMENT

SHORE GUIDE

CASINOS

NATION

- [Top News](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Sports](#)

ARCHIVE

- [Press Stories](#)

REGION

- [Atlantic County](#)
- [Cape May County](#)
- [Cumberland Co.](#)
- [Ocean County](#)
- [New Jersey](#)

SECTIONS

- [Business/Casino](#)
- [Columns/Opinion](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [N.J. Politics](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Sports](#)

SPECIALS

- [Legacies](#)
- [Miss America](#)
- [Nature File](#)
- [Nature Pages](#)
- [Public Records](#)
- [Special Reports](#)

July 26, 2003

Corzine promises to help attract Boeing plant to Millville

By JOYCE VANAMAN Staff Writer, (856) 825-2303

MILLVILLE - Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., told a delegation of local, county and state representatives Thursday that he will actively help in trying to get the proposed Boeing plant to locate in New Jersey.

Members of the delegation Friday hailed his support of the Millville Airport site.

"Sen. Corzine offered to lead the delegation of Cumberland and state representatives to meet with Phillip Condit, the chairman and CEO of Boeing," said Freeholder Louis Magazzu. "Since the senator knows Mr. Condit personally and is held in high regard by him, this would be a tremendous advantage for the Cumberland County application."

A brief release from Corzine's office states: "The meeting (with the delegation) was productive, and I am optimistic about the potential for getting a new manufacturing facility in New Jersey. The new facility would provide jobs for New Jerseyans looking for work. Nothing is guaranteed, but I am committed to helping in whatever way I can to see that this project becomes a reality."

Hugh McElroy, chairman of the New Jersey Aviation Association and vice president/general manager of Dallas Airmotive, said: "I have worked with Sen. Corzine in the past and have always found him to be an excellent supporter of public needs with a very thorough and precise grasp of the issues. Due to his position in the Senate and formerly as chairman of Goldman & Sachs, he has an enormous reach in the business community."

McElroy added: "The senator provided some excellent suggestions for us to pursue, and he also volunteered to be pro-active with us in pursuing 'Project Olympus,' the dreamliner 7E7, with Boeing and with government leaders, agencies and legislators in neighboring states."

"The city is thrilled with the partnerships put together to advance this project, and to have Sen. Corzine be directly involved takes the effort to an even higher level," said Don Ayres, Millville economic development director.

Ayres and other members of the team, which includes county and state representatives, have said that the proposed \$900 million project, with an estimated 1,000 new jobs, would have a tremendous positive impact for the entire region.

A letter to Condit dated July 23, signed by Corzine and Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., stated their strong support of the Millville site, noting that it would provide many advantages for the operation of a major aircraft assembly facility.

The letter states, in part: "The airport is already large enough to accommodate the facility and offers an additional 2,000 acres available for development. It cites the proximity to the Federal Aviation Aircraft Technical Center in Pomona, the fact that the



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airport is in a Foreign Trade Zone and in an Empowerment Zone.

"Boeing would benefit from access to a well-educated work force and from close proximity to one of the largest markets in the United States, the greater New York-New Jersey-Pennsylvania area," the letter noted.

The senators praised the quality of life in New Jersey and said that Millville was named the fourth best urban center in the state. "It is a prime location for employees to relocate, with a mixture of open space and recreation as well as development sites with affordable price tags."

"All in all, Millville has demonstrated a strong commitment to meaningful and long-lasting economic development and an improved quality of life," the senators stated.

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