APPENDIX

Capital Budgeting and Planning Commission

Testimony by:

Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus

Good morning Chairwoman Molnar and members of the Commission on Capital Budgeting and Planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of Agriculture's capital budget request for fiscal year 2009 and out-years.

As you know, our Department works closely with all segments of the Garden State's $84 billion dollar food and agriculture industry. Over the years, our capital funding requests and subsequent capital appropriations have helped us administer programs and services that have served that industry and our citizens well.

In recognition of the current economic times, our fiscal year 2009 capital requests are limited to health, safety, and Homeland Security issues.

Our first request is for funding, design and site work for a Mobile Laboratory trailer at the new Public Health, Agriculture and Environmental Laboratory in West Trenton, as well as additional infrastructure support for sewer, water, and electrical hookups. We have already received a federal Homeland Security grant of $90,000 and are requesting $248,000 for the remainder of the cost.

This Mobile lab will enable the state to rapidly respond to an animal disease outbreak, quickly assess its scope, and make critical decisions on corrective measures to contain and mitigate the outbreak. An outbreak, such as Avian Influenza or other devastating infectious diseases, whether as a result of agroterrorism or a catastrophic animal disease outbreak, would have severe consequences on New Jersey's agricultural industry, the food supply, the state's economy, and its citizens. When the mobile lab is not being utilized for an outbreak, it will be used for training and as a back-up facility to the main lab.

Our second request of $57,500, is to replace the entire roof system, including subroof and insulation, and repair water entry locations of the Administration Building at the Horse Park of New Jersey.

A copy of a DEP study provided subsequent to our making this request is attached to this testimony, showing the full cost to be $71,939. The report details entire roof system failures, as well as extensive water damage that have occurred over the years to window and door areas. The roof system includes trim, fascia, flashing, spandrels, and soffits. Window and door openings need to be modified to ensure weatherproofing. The roof has leaked for years and has been repaired many times with limited success. Clearly, baling wire and duct tape are no longer sufficient to keep this roof over the heads of Horse Park visitors.

Also, prolonged failure of the roofing material and the inability of the repairs to solve the problems have now affected the ceilings at all levels inside the building, which houses restroom facilities and therefore is accessible to more than 300,000 visitors to the Park each year. Therefore, all ceilings need to be replaced. In addition, there are two lower-level flat roofs that are in poor condition. Both roofs show signs of flashing failure as well as roofing material that has reached its life expectancy.

The Horse Park, while providing family fun, educational opportunities, and thrilling competitive events, also serves as a "showcase" facility for the State. Funding for the upkeep of this building, while addressing health and safety issues, will further enhance the Park as a premier equine facility.

Our next request, within the Division of Animal Health is for laboratory equipment totaling $120,000. This equipment, including Cepheid Smartcyclers with an integrated computer, a nucleic acid extraction robot, a low-grade temperature incubator, and Agarmatic automated media prep equipment, is necessary to provide expanded diagnostic capability and increased overall testing capacity without the requirement of additional laboratory staff.

This equipment will also allow for development and implementation of a molecular biology unit capable of testing for emerging and harmful animal diseases that pose a threat to our industry and can in addition be potentially

infectious to humans. Molecular testing provides a faster turn around time and more specificity in disease diagnosis.

The Department also wishes to note that an out-year request for the sum of $500,000 is requested for acquisition of a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) in our Division of Animal Health. This State-of-the art multi-functional system is necessary to replace our current outdated system that is not capable of communicating with USDA sites and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and other sites that have been developed for national animal health surveillance and rapid detection of outbreaks.

Our second out-year request of $307,000 is being submitted to identify the need of the Department to cover the costs of new furniture in the planned New Jersey Public Health, Agriculture and Environmental Laboratory currently under construction in West Trenton. The Department anticipates moving into this facility by summer, 2010, and will be in need of office furniture, computers, and telephones. The Department will be moving approximately 50 people into this new facility, including our entire laboratory staff.

This concludes the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's capital project requests for Fiscal Year 2009 and out-years.

WATER INFILTRATION STUDY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
HORSE PARK OF NEW JERSEY
MILLSTONE, MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

HONORABLE JON S. CORZINE GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

LISA P. JACKSON, COMMISSIONER

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

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RONALD A. SEBRING, RA
NEW JERSEY REGISTERED ARCHITECT C-6933

August 6, 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The metal roof system is in premature failure and should be replaced with fiberglass-asphalt shingles.
- Steel trim, fascia, spandrels, and soffits should be replaced with wood, cellular PVC lumber, or aluminum.
- The low slope roof systems are at the end of their life span and should be replaced.
- Awning windows are leaking around the gaskets and need to be serviced or replaced.
- Security shutters on office windows should be removed and the wall construction modified to produce a weather tight assembly.
- Insulation should be removed from the rafters in the mechanical attic.
- The door at the west mechanical room should be replaced and the opening modified for weather tightness.
- The future kitchen exhaust curb should be properly flashed.
- Joint sealers should be replaced.
- Security shutters should be eliminated on the office windows.
- The cost to implement all repairs are estimated to be $71,939.

ENGAGEMENT

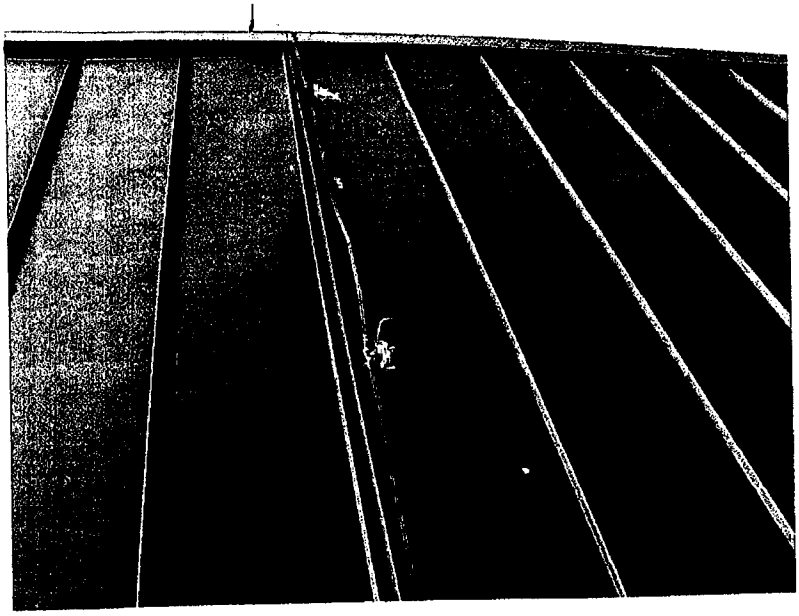
In July of 2007, The Office of Natural and Historic Resources of the Department of Environmental Protection, commissioned Ronald A. Sebring Associates, LLC to conduct a water infiltration study on the Administration Building at the Horse Park of New Jersey. It was reported that signs of water infiltration was observed on the walls of the Judge's Room, on the ceiling in the Office, on the floor of the Mechanical Room, on the floor of the Mechanical Attic, at a smoke detector in the Women's Toilet Room, and on the floor of the future Concession Area.

CONSTRUCTION

The Administration Building was constructed in early 1990. The building is of masonry bearing wall construction skinned with an external insulation and finish system (*EIFS*) consisting of a synthetic stucco applied over an insulation board over block back-up. The steep sloped roof is constructed of painted steel batten panel and painted steel flashings. There are two low slope built-up roofs partially covering the Office and Trophy Room. Fixed, awning, and sliding vinyl clad windows are utilized in the building. Windows at the Office have aluminum roll-up shutters installed on the exterior.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On August 2, 2007, the water infiltration study was conducted. Initially, the building was examined with particular emphasis on areas of known or reported infiltration. Observed and suspected defects were tested by the application of water from a garden hose.



Photograph 1 - Steep slope roof standing seam panels. Note poorly installed lightning protection cabling. Although the caulking at the cable connections is poor, the penetrations are not currently leaking.

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Steep Slope Roof

The condition of the metal roof is surprisingly poor for a roof that is only 17 years old. Roofs of this construction should last at least 30 years. The finish is faded and severe rust, including some rust-through, was observed at the panel ends, vertical flanges at gutters, and at edge moldings. Panel ends are rusted through at valley flashing. There is no "vee-groove" in the center of the valley flashing allowing water to cascade up the opposing roof and under the roof panels. The sealant at the intersection of roof panels and valley flashing, and at valley flashing to valley flashing, is dried compromising the watertight joint. It appears that previous leaking was addressed by surface caulking these joints with a white sealant.

There are numerous roof penetrations. A majority of the penetrations are for the attachment of lightning protection. Other penetrations include plumbing vents and a capped vertical curb for future cooking exhaust.

Photograph 2 – Top of valley. Note rust at intersection of panel edges and roofing panel, lack of vee-groove in valley flashing, open seam and missing fastener in ridge, surface caulking at intersection of roof panels and cable clamps, and at valley flashing.

All penetrations were water tested and no leaks were observed within the building. The only infiltration that was observed, after a considerable period of water flow, was on the floor of the Mechanical Attic. The water was accumulating on the plywood subfloor just above the location of the smoke detector in the Women's Toilet Room. The water was infiltrating under the intersection of roof panels and valley flashing, and at valley flashing to valley flashing joint.

Low Slope Roofs

Both low slope roofs are in poor condition. There are wrinkles in the cap sheet and the base flashing has pulled away from the wall providing a source for water infiltration. Counter flashing is missing on the westerly roof. Both of theses roofs should be replaced and new counter flashing installed.

EIFS

The EIFS is in satisfactory condition with the exception of a vertical expansion crack over the door to the Mechanical Room on the west side of the building, and possibly some deterioration of the insulation board behind the finish. A repair to the system can be made by installing an expansion joint at this location. The color at the repair will not perfectly match the existing so it is recommended that a color coat be applied to the entire building. This color coat will also make the EIFS surface more water resistant. Early EIFS installations are subject to premature failure due to manufacturer's improper installation procedures. The system must be monitored for crazing and cracking and repaired as soon as possible to prevent failure. *(see joint sealers)*

The interior wall surface in the second floor Judge's Room on the exterior wall between the window and the southwest corner of the building appeared to have been stained by water infiltration. This side of the building was extensively wetted from the first floor trim line up to, and including, the roof. No water infiltration was observed. It was concluded that the stain, which also appears on the north interior wall, may have been the result of cleaning.

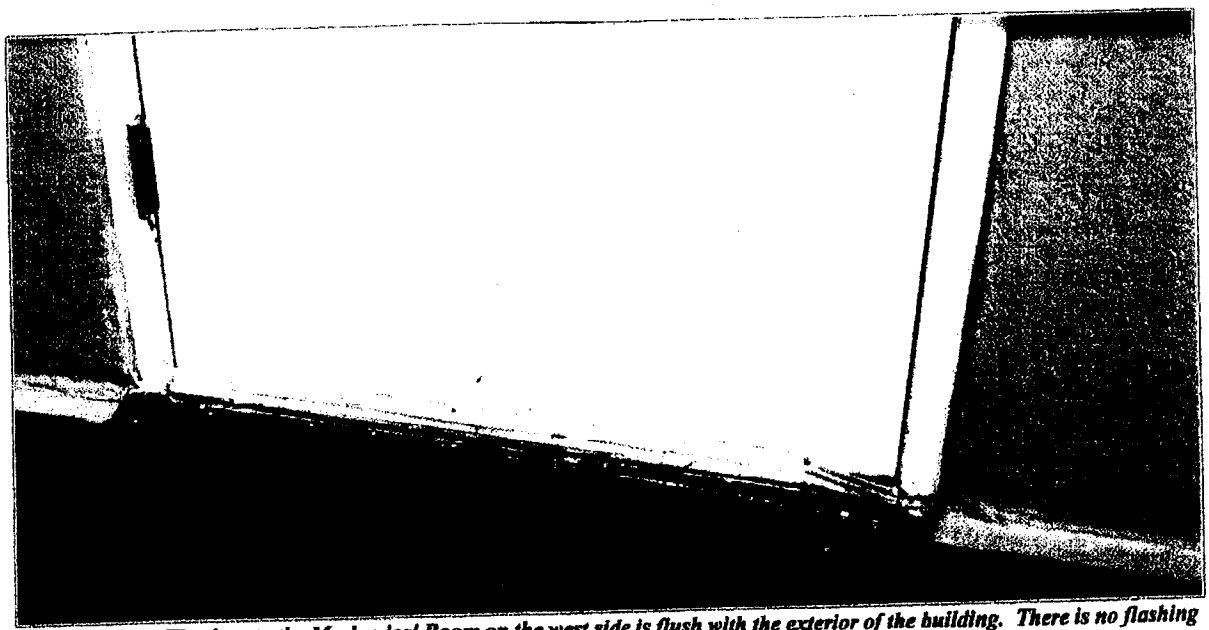
Photograph 8 – The vertical seam spandrel panel was thought to be the source of the water infiltration at the office ceiling. After prolonged water testing it was determined that the rollup shutter is the problem.

Windows

The westerly windows in the Judge's Office leak. The windows were subjected to a controlled water test which identified the source of infiltration as the upper gasket on the operating sash of the awning window. The window is an older style Andersen Window which does not have sash locks like the newer models. Sash locks engage the sash, pulling it into the frame and compressing the gaskets. The current window relies on the operator to fully close and compress the gasket. Even after cleaning the gasket and turning the roto-operator tight, the window still leaked. The southerly window in the Judge's Room and the easterly window in the Press Room were also tested, although there were no signs of previous water infiltration. Those windows also leaked. All awning windows should be serviced by the manufacturer, the gaskets replaced, and the units water tested. If they still leak the windows should be replaced with the newer model.

Ceiling tiles are stained on the east side of the Office. Initially it was speculated that the source of infiltration was the window on the second floor or the metal panels at the window head. After extensive water testing with the security shutters in both a raised and lowered position, it was determined that the source of the leak is the detailing of the installation of the security shutter. Water is entering at the intersection of the wall at the supporting lintel above the rolling shutter drum. This type of shutter is meant to be installed inside of the wall to make the unit watertight.

The need for the continued use of these security shutters should be reviewed. They are only located on the Office windows. Other windows on the first floor are not equipped with shutters. The building is equipped with an intrusion detection system. We would recommend eliminating the shutters and reconstructing the space over the window to make the wall water resistant.



Photograph 9 – The door to the Mechanical Room on the west side is flush with the exterior of the building. There is no flashing over the door head allowing water to infiltrate at the head. The door does not have a cap cover allowing water to lay in the top channel which will eventually rust through. The door does not have weather-stripping which allows water to infiltrate the room. Note condition of door sweep at the bottom.

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Doors

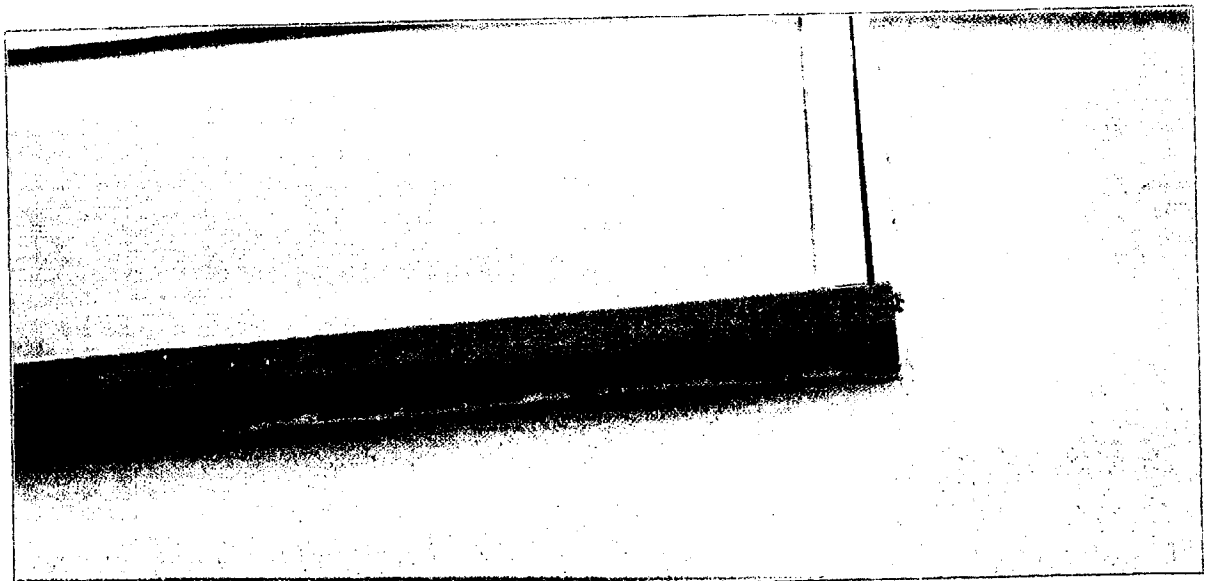
Water is infiltrating the Mechanical Room on the west side. The door to the room is leaking at the head as a result of the omission of head flashing or the door being recessed into the block wall. Additionally the door does not have top cap allowing water to infiltrate at the recessed top channel. The door does not have any weather-stripping. A door sweep is used in place of a threshold.

The door and frame should be replaced and the door recessed in the opening using a larger frame. A proper threshold and weather-stripping should be installed.

Joint Sealers

Water testing of the joint sealers did not produce any infiltration into the building. Defects in sealant at doors and windows were observed. In most cases with EIFS skinned buildings, initial infiltration is absorbed in the insulation board directly behind the finish. Over time, the insulation board deteriorates resulting in a hollow behind the synthetic finish.

Joint sealers should be replaced to keep water from infiltrating the insulation.



Photograph 10 – This is a window on the west side of the building. Note opening in joint sealant under the sill.

CONSTRUCTION COST

A detail construction cost estimate is included with this report. The cost to replace the roofing systems, and to implement the recommendations in this report, is estimated to be $71,939.

CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE

WATER INFILTRATION STUDY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
HOURSE PARK OF NEW JERSEY
MILLSTONE, MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
8/10/2007

ITEM	QUAN.	UNIT AMOUNT LABOR	UNIT AMOUNT TOTAL	TOTAL LABOR	TOTAL TOTAL
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (DIVISION 1)					
NERAL REQUIREMENTS					
MOBILIZATION AND DEMOBILIZATION /L.S..	1.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$1,500.00
BOND /L.S.	1.00	$0.00	$1,407.00	$0.00	$1,407.00
RESTORE LANDSCAPING /L.S.	1.00	$300.00	$500.00	$300.00	$500.00
SITEWORK (DIVISION 2)					
DEMOLITION					
DUMPSTER /EA.	2.00	$0.00	$900.00	$0.00	$1,800.00
REMOVE METAL ROOFING /S.F.	2916.00	$0.50	$1.00	$1,458.00	$2,916.00
REMOVE METAL TRIM /L.F.	322.00	$0.96	$1.49	$309.12	$479.78
REMOVE METAL FASCIA /L.F.	118.00	$0.96	$1.49	$113.28	$175.82
REMOVE METAL SPANDRELS /L.F.	110.00	$0.50	$0.81	$55.00	$89.10
REMOVE METAL SOFFIT /S.F.	375.00	$0.96	$1.49	$360.00	$558.75
REMOVE LEADERS /EA.	10.00	$16.45	$25.50	$164.50	$255.00
REMOVE BUILT-UP ROOFING /S.F.	170.00	$0.88	$1.38	$149.60	$234.60
REMOVE SECURITY SHUTTERS /L.S.	4.00	$117.00	$183.00	$468.00	$732.00
REMOVE INSULATION /C.F.	5.80	$0.16	$0.26	$0.93	$1.51
REMOVE DOOR AND FRAME /L.S.	1.00	$300.00	$375.00	$300.00	$375.00
REMOVE GUTTER /L.F.	102.00	$0.96	$1.49	$97.92	$151.98
REMOVE ROOF ACCESSORIES /EA.	6.00	$16.45	$25.50	$98.70	$153.00
AREA ADJUSTMENT DIVISION 2		4.40%	2.50%	$152.96	$194.24
WOOD AND PLASTICS (DIVISION 6)					
ROUGH CARPENTRY					
INFILL SHUTTER /L.F.	19.00	$4.12	$16.00	$78.28	$304.00
CARPENTER /HOUR	40.00	$50.00	$60.00	$2,000.00	$2,400.00
MODIFY DOOR OPENING /L.S.	1.00	$150.00	$225.00	$150.00	$225.00
FINISH CARPENTRY					
CARPENTER /HOUR	16.00	$50.00	$60.00	$800.00	$960.00
PVC FASCIA 1x8 /L.F.	118.00	$1.51	$5.50	$178.18	$649.00
PVC RAKE 1x8 /L.F.	144.00	$1.55	$5.55	$223.20	$799.20
PVC RAKE TRIM 1x3 /L.F.	122.00	$1.31	$3.57	$159.82	$435.54
PVC SOFFIT BOARDS /L.F.	375.00	$2.94	$12.60	$1,102.50	$4,725.00
PVC DECORATIVE TRIM /L.F.	322.00	$1.17	$3.37	$376.74	$1,085.14
PVC SPANDRELS /L.C.	110.00	$3.10	$17.20	$341.00	$1,892.00
AREA ADJUSTMENT DIVISION 6		26.90%	16.50%	$1,363.49	$1,911.18

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THERMAL AND MOISTURE PROTECTION (DIVISION 7)

THERMAL & MOISTURE PROTECTION					
ASPHALT SHINGLE ROOFING /SQ.	29.16	$72.50	$197.00	$2,114.10	$5,744.52
ICE AND WATER BARRIER /SQ.	29.16	$49.50	$74.00	$1,443.42	$2,157.84
PERLITE RECOVER BOARD 1/2" /S.F.	170.00	$0.24	$0.77	$40.80	$130.90
POLYISOCYANURATE 2" /S.F.	170.00	$0.23	$1.30	$39.10	$221.00
BUILT-UP ROOFING ROOFING /SQ	1.70	$83.00	$263.00	$141.10	$447.10
FLASHINGS /L.F.	264.00	$0.88	$2.45	$232.32	$646.80
CAULKING /L.S.	1.00	$2,000.00	$2,500.00	$2,000.00	$2,500.00
CANT /L.F.	76.00	$0.78	$1.54	$59.28	$117.04
FLASHING & SHEET METAL					
LEADERS /L.F.	10.00	$1.83	$4.54	$18.30	$45.40
GUTTER /L.F.	102.00	$2.90	$5.95	$295.80	$606.90
ROOF CURB FLASHING /L.S.	1.00	$500.00	$650.00	$500.00	$650.00
PITCH POCKET /EA.	3.00	$5.30	$21.00	$15.90	$63.00
AREA ADJUSTMENT DIVISION 7		26.30%	9.70%	$1,814.73	$1,293.06

OPENINGS (DIVISION 8)

OPENINGS					
NEW FRAME /EA.	1.00	$36.50	$202.00	$36.50	$202.00
NEW DOOR /EA.	1.00	$34.50	$400.00	$34.50	$400.00
REPLACEMENT SASH /EA.	6.00	$40.00	$200.00	$240.00	$1,200.00
AREA ADJUSTMENT DIVISION 8		19.60%	3.30%	$60.96	$59.47

FINISHES (DIVISION 9)

PAINTING					
STUCCO REPAIR /L.S.	1.00	$500.00	$800.00	$500.00	$800.00
EIFS COATING /S.F.	2533.00	$0.51	$1.67	$1,291.83	$4,230.11
AREA ADJUSTMENT DIVISION 9		27.30%	13.00%	$489.17	$653.91

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION			
SUB TOTAL			$53,986.77
TOTAL LABOR	$22,169.02		
LABOR ADJUSTMENT FACTOR			13.00%
LABOR ADJUSTMENT AMOUNT			$2,881.97
SUBTOTAL			$56,868.74
OVERHEAD		15.00%	$8,530.31
PROFIT		10.00%	$6,539.91
TOTAL			**$71,938.96**

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COMMISSION ON CAPITAL BUDGETING AND PLANNING

Testimony of Jane Oates
Executive Director, New Jersey Commission on Higher Education
September 7, 2007

Good morning Chairwoman Molner and members of the Commission. As the Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today on the capital preservation and maintenance needs of our senior public colleges and universities. I'm honored to have several presidents here today including Rutgers University President Richard McCormick, who will answer any specific questions that you have about their institutions.

Each year the Commission has come before you to make the case for increased capital support for renewal of the state's assets at senior public colleges and universities. This year will be no exception. Each year the stakes are higher because our facilities have suffered from the lack of long-range strategic planning and budgeting for the preservation and maintenance of existing facilities.

This week our campuses welcomed thousands of new students. These students arrived ready to improve their thinking and reasoning skills, and to continue their studies that will lead to successful careers. These talented women and men will go on to create innovative companies, to write prize winning literature, to cure diseases, and to teach the future generations in New Jersey. These students will live the globalization theories that we are reading about. And many of them will hold jobs that we don't even name today. They are indeed the future of our state.

Our well-educated state scholars have the ability to compete at any college or university, and we have to compete with states that have made improvement and expansion of higher education facilities a priority. Students, who have grown up with wireless at Starbucks, expect no less on a college campus. Students, who have taken college credit courses on line while still in high school, expect that the use of technology in course delivery will be no less in their college. And they also expect and deserve campuses that regularly address health, fire safety, health safety, and other building renewal issues.

These students chose their college or university based on what they saw when they visited the campuses. For many of them it was the extensive wet laboratories that had professional level worlds above their high school chemistry lab. For others they saw the smart classrooms with write on boards and video technology that allowed them to have complete interconnectivity with the professor and each other. And honestly some looked at student centers, dormitories, and fitness facilities. Our colleges have to stay market competitive and offer these amenities, but they have done their share by building these non-academic facilities on their own. They desperately need the state's help on academic infrastructure and deferred maintenance.

The Commission on Higher Education completed the Capital Planning Task Force in 2007 and developed four guiding principles:

1) State support for higher education capital projects should be based on a statewide capital plan that prioritizes New Jersey's educational and economic development needs and coordinates state support for eligible colleges and universities in the state.
2) State funding for higher education capital needs should be provided within the context of overall need for state support of higher education access, excellence, and affordability, recognizing that enhanced physical capacity has implications for concomitant increased state operating support and increased funding for student financial need.
3) State support for major capital construction and renovation should require state and institutional commitment to preservation and maintenance of the new or renovated facilities over the long-term and include state and institutional support to eliminate existing deferred maintenance on campuses.
4) State support for higher education capital needs should include coordinated state review and best practices oversight of the use of state funds.

Nationally recognized standards for annual renewal at colleges and universities recommend that between 1.5 percent and 3.0 percent of current replacement value be dedicated to maintain and renew the physical plant. For fiscal 2008, we recommended approximately $65.5 million, which was 1.0 percent of the January 2006 estimated total replacement value of $ 6,554,522,669. This is an unrealistic request as it would require almost your entire budget and leave nothing for other pressing statewide needs.

Instead we are asking that this Commission consider concentrating on deferred maintenance. Through the establishment of a dedicated project that includes an institutional match, colleges could prioritize deferred maintenance projects, such as fire safety, ADA compliance, and HVAC upgrades that so many of them have acknowledged. Eleven of the twelve institutions have updated their capital budget requests prior to this meeting, and each of them could benefit from such a program. The program could require as much as a 50% institutional match, and would send a clear message that the state was serious about sustaining safe, accessible, well-maintained campuses for all students while protecting its own investments.

Our senior public institutions are critical state assets – not only for the value of their real estate but for the promise of a better future for generations of students to come. Those students will become the backbone of our well-educated workforce and the best of our natural resources, which preserve the health and competitiveness of New Jersey business and industry.

Thank you and I look forward to your questions and comments.

COMMISSION ON CAPITAL BUDGETING AND PLANNING

September 7, 2007

Testimony of Christina Higgins, Director
Office of Management and Administrative Services
Administrative Office of the Courts

I want to thank the Commission for the opportunity to address you about the Judiciary's capital budget needs for the FY 2009. We have six important information technology initiatives for which we seek capital funds.

These technology projects are components of the Judiciary IT Strategic Plan. I mention the Strategic Plan to give you a sense of the diligence and seriousness with which the Judiciary approaches the management of its resources as well as its communication and data management systems.

As you know, technology and vendor support of technology is changing rapidly and as a result, we are confronted with the need to update our infrastructure in order to avoid obsolescence of our hardware and software. Although our systems currently are running, they are subject to break down, and if we do not implement a sound replacement strategy, we risk not only loss of data but also loss of the ability to manage our caseloads, to assist other agencies, to serve the public, and even to communicate with other offices inside and outside of our court system.

Our first priority for FY 2009 is to upgrade the now obsolete sound recording systems used to create the official record of court proceedings. An accurate court record is essential in order to ensure integrity, fairness and justice. Because of sound recording equipment failure, the official court record of cases has been compromised—and litigants are disadvantaged if, for example, they needed to appeal their case and there is no record to refer back to.

Currently, most of our courtrooms are equipped with analog audio recording equipment. These analog audio devices are no longer manufactured and we can't buy replacement parts. Through Treasury's Division of Purchase and Property, a contract has recently been awarded to purchase digital audio devices. These digital devices create higher quality recordings than the analog, are more reliable, and have better back-up, retrieval, and storage features. We plan to replace sound recording equipment in our family courtrooms this fiscal year. But replacing the devices in all 425 Superior Court rooms, plus hearing rooms and grand jury rooms is a multi-year project. Our FY09 request for $3.3 million will fund digital recording in 182 Civil Courtrooms.

The ongoing upgrade of our Wide Area Network and core infrastructure has been necessary to enable the Judiciary's continued connectivity to the courts, to other state

agencies, and to the Internet. Our WAN is the backbone of our connectivity. The upgrades are needed for two reasons: first, to keep pace with growing and changing demands on our systems from internal and external users, and, second, to maintain the safety and integrity of critical information assets. Over time the sophistication and number of those who would attempt to compromise our systems has grown exponentially. We must continuously protect our systems not only from becoming obsolete, but from illegal access. We are requesting $1.5 million this year to help us continue our WAN upgrades and $1.66 million to expand the Judiciary's data center, so that we are able to add processing capacity, disk and tape storage.

Our next request is for $3 million to fund the development of electronic filing capability to support the expansion of e-filing to a variety of case types. You may have read in the Star-Ledger this week the article regarding the growth of e-filing around the country. E-filing offers convenience and potential cost-savings to both attorneys and to the courts and makes it possible to access these cases on-line. All cases in the federal court system already are accessible over the Internet, and states around the country are struggling to meet the demand of court users. Currently, we offer e-filing in limited docket types, but we need to expand e-filing substantially before we can even begin to consider making these documents accessible online.

We are also in the process of web enabling our case management systems to allow online access to case information. We are requesting $2.7 million to continue to web-enable our family, civil, and criminal systems and forms applications. Although it would seem that the e-filing and web enabling initiatives are a higher priority for court users, these initiatives are prioritized after the infrastructure upgrades, because they require an upgraded infrastructure.

Finally, we are requesting $9.5 million to upgrade our Local Area Network Infrastructure and desktop automation. The upgrade to Windows 2007 is required to meet the demands of our users and of the applications. Our current version of Windows does not meet the minimum operating standards of some of the applications we rely on. This funding also would allow us to upgrade our MS Office software, and it would allow our systems to better interface with other state agencies.

Thank you for your consideration of the Judiciary's request. We would be happy to answer any questions you have.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FY 2009 CAPITAL BUDGET TESTIMONY

Nina Mitchell Wells, New Jersey Secretary of State
September 7, 2007

Good morning Madam Chairwoman and members of the Commission. I appreciate this opportunity to present the Department of State's Capital Budget request for FY 2009. The Department's request is a total of $235,000 to fund two essential priorities: $160,000 to replace the sound and lighting system at the State Museum Auditorium with a capacity of 384 seats, and $75,000 to replace the seats in the Museum Planetarium.

This is the largest planetarium between NY and Philadelphia. It is a major attraction for residents and tourists, and a huge draw for our capital city—with 40,000 to 45,000 planetarium visitors annually

My Department fully understands the difficult budgetary times we are all working in and is committed to achieving the fiscal priorities laid out by the Governor.

The Museum Auditorium and the Planetarium generate revenue through fees and admission. Additionally, we are in the midst of a major $15 million renovation project for the Museum and the Planetarium, to upgrade the buildings' infrastructure. This is the first such effort since the buildings were opened in 1964—more than four decades ago. Also, the Governor and I are leading a $13 million dollar capital campaign to provide funds for the interior renovations, which will include new public spaces such as:

- a Museum shop and café,
- ADA compliant restrooms,
- new exhibitions of the Museum's 2-million piece collection, and
- reconfigured and redesigned space for changing exhibitions.

What we don't have—and what this capital budget request will provide—is a sound and lighting system adequate to meet the needs of the multiple uses for our 384-seat Auditorium. The Auditorium is used almost daily. The current sound system, more than 40 years old, is unreliable and often malfunctions in the midst of important presentations.

With regard to lighting capabilities, at present, the Auditorium lighting is unusable; in short, the system no longer meets any standard safety code requirements. Many electrical circuit breakers do not function. The system needs to be replaced.

The Auditorium is a highly sought-after location by numerous state agencies, colleges, non-profits, and community organizations. It is one of the most preferred locations in the state Capital. New, state-of-the-art systems mean that the Auditorium will generate more rental income, becoming a steady source of revenue for the Museum.

Let me, if I may, now provide you with some background regarding the priority request for $75,000 to replace the seats in the Planetarium's theater. These seats were originally installed in 1965 and were re-upholstered during the 1989 renovation. They are uniquely designed to recline in order to view the Planetarium's inner dome, where images are projected. Since 1989,

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thousands of visitors have used the seats, subjecting them to considerable wear and damage, including torn fabric, broken hardware and exposed inner springs. Simply put, many of the existing seats are broken and unsafe. Our seating is not ADA-compliant, leaving the wheelchair-disabled public with poor viewing at best. These new seats are necessary to maintain the image of this state-of-the-art, first class visitor and tourist venue in our great capital city!

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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