

New Jersey Senate

SENATE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
NEW JERSEY STATE HOUSE
P.O. Box 099
TRENTON, NJ 08625



SENATENJ.COM
NJSENREPS@NJLEG.ORG
P: (609) 847-3600
F: (609) 984-8148

February 8, 2021

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor, State of New Jersey
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625-0001

Dear Governor Murphy,

It has come to my attention that you recently appointed a New York resident to be a member of the State commission (Tidelands Resource Council) that controls certain state lands that are rented, used by, or neighbor millions of New Jersey residents in coastal counties and other counties.

The appointment of any New Yorker to this particular board seems inappropriate for several reasons.

First, clearly we could find someone in New Jersey who would love the opportunity to be on the Tidelands Resource Council.

Second, New York has occasionally clashed with New Jersey over its use of riparian lands, with New York having even filed legal challenges against the State in efforts to secure our tidal lands of Ellis Island.

Finally, the tens of thousands of residents who rent land from the Tidelands Resource Council would undoubtedly have more faith in a board made up of their fellow New Jersey citizens.

I mean no disrespect to the nominee. But this particular board is not one that lends itself to having a New Yorker as a member. It would be like putting someone on a planning board of one town who lives in the neighboring one. It isn't necessary. It can pose conflicts. And those whose lands would be regulated would be justifiably concerned. For that reason, I am asking you to consider withdrawing the nominee from this particular board and perhaps find one that is more suitable.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Declan O'Scanlon".

Senator Declan O'Scanlon