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February 7, 1991

TO: James W. Johnston
FROM: M. B. Oglesby, Jr.
Roger L. Mozingo *RLM/CS*
SUBJECT: New Jersey Employment Discrimination Bill

Legislators in New Jersey may attempt this month to override a veto of a smoker employment discrimination bill by Governor Jim Florio. The principal Senate and Assembly sponsors of the legislation are polling individual legislators to determine if they have sufficient votes. A two-thirds vote is required in both Houses. The legislation was passed by the Senate 29-1 and by the Assembly 60-10. The override would be accomplished if those legislators voting yes voted for the override.

Industry lobbyists are preparing to have introduced another version of an employment discrimination bill if the override fails.

Governor Florio is expected to lobby vigorously against the override attempt. No overrides or attempts to override have taken place during his administration. Unfortunately, news media in Pennsylvania and New Jersey have strongly supported the governor's veto.

RJRT is continuing to press legislators for the override vote by direct lobbying and communication to New Jersey smokers.

The final decision on the override should be made at the next legislative session scheduled by February 14. Senate and Assembly leadership tentatively agreed to post the legislation for a vote.

RLM/vp

cc T. C. Griscom

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