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## County Freeholder to Attend Federal Clean Energy Forum at White House

**OCT. 20, 2009** – Middlesex County Freeholder H. James Polos, who has spearheaded many of the County's energy efficient and green economic development programs, has been invited to the White House to attend a Clean Energy Economy Forum.

U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg recommended Freeholder Polos' invitation.

"Freeholder Jim Polos has played a critical role in helping Middlesex County go green," Lautenberg said. "He understands that the use of clean energy is good for his constituents, good for the economy and good for the environment. I am proud to have recommended him to attend this important conference at the White House."

Freeholder Polos and other attendees will discuss American competitiveness in the clean energy economy, the opportunities and challenges presented by it and the national debate over the nation's energy future. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday.

According to a letter from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke: "The emerging clean energy economy provides tremendous opportunities for American workers, businesses and entrepreneurs...Ensuring American competitiveness in the clean energy economy is critical to our economic recovery today and to our economic growth tomorrow."

"I am honored and feel privileged to have been asked to attend this meeting," Freeholder Polos said. "I expect a lively, informative dialogue that will harness the ideas and ingenuity of people from all walks of life and from very different geographic areas in a real effort to tap into the expanding clean energy market to create economic development opportunities and job opportunities for Middlesex County and for the State of New Jersey."

The group is expected to include business leaders, non-profit experts, members of the academic community, and White House staff.

Middlesex County, which was recognized as the Clean Energy Leader in 2007 by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, has been a leader in integrating green technology and energy efficiency in its communities and schools and is at the forefront of

developing a green economy to provide jobs and attract new businesses to the county through its creation of Green Economic Development Zones. A committee is currently studying the financial and economic value of such zones, which would match existing vacant warehouse space with businesses that manufacture or sell environmentally friendly products and technologies, such as solar panels to boost the County's economic growth.

The County also is the first in the state to develop a countywide sustainability plan, which addresses energy issues, economic development, education and health.

"We consistently strive to establish programs and policies that protect the environment while at the same time, offer effective, efficient service to our residents," Polos said. "I believe that in doing so, we are offering responsive, responsible government."