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President

Report TO MEMBERS

NJBIA Members Have Their Say

One of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association's most important jobs is to represent and give voice to the views of our member companies in our communications with the Governor and his Cabinet, state lawmakers, and the news media.

One of the ways we reflect the views of our members on the state's business climate is to ask them questions about it in our annual Business Outlook Survey. We also invite them to share their views in a closing statement.

This year, only 19 percent of survey participants said Jersey is a good place for expansion of their business facilities, little changed from the record low found in the previous survey. They also identified the overall cost of doing business in New Jersey, along with health insurance and property taxes, as the biggest problem they face.

Of the 580 companies offering commentary, less than 5 percent had positive things to say about New Jersey's business climate. Less than 5 percent! Many said they are planning to leave New Jersey or would like to move to a more business-friendly state. A great many also said it's getting harder to find skilled workers who can afford NJ's high property taxes and housing costs. Here is a representative sampling of their comments (each company is identified by industry, home county, and number of people employed):

"I have always loved NJ, being born and raised here, but over the past few years, I think NJ has not done anything to encourage business retention, expansion or development. In fact, I am thinking of moving my business out of the state, along with my family." **Printing, Essex, 12 employees.**

"If I did not have an over 100-year-old family business, I would run, not walk, out of this state. Is there another state in the country that is as business unfriendly as NJ? Maybe, but I haven't heard of it." **Retail, Atlantic, 10 employees.**

"New Jersey is still very anti-business. The Governor and others talk a good game, but their actions in regulations and legislation speak otherwise." **Construction, Monmouth, +100 employees.**

"New Jersey is not a business friendly state...Medium-size businesses like ours are being squeezed out, and the only question is when, not whether, they will be forced to close." **Transportation, Cumberland, 50 employees.**

"Costs associated with corruption and government mandates make NJ an undesirable place to do business." **Wholesale, Burlington, 7 employees.**

"One of the worst business environments in the last 25 years. The state has got to support business and commerce, not fight it." **Housing, Hunterdon, 25 employees.**

"It is difficult to attract highly skilled personnel due to high property taxes and cost-of-living expenses." **Manufacturing, Middlesex, 200 employees.**

"I am contemplating moving to Pennsylvania due to the lack of commitment to easing the costs of doing business in New Jersey." **Service, Mercer, 7 employees.**

"They don't know I exist other than for taxes and political contributions." **Service, Essex, 350 employees.**

"CFO Magazine rated NJ the worst state in the country to do business. Paid family leave is just another example of the state digging the grave deeper." **Finance/Real Estate, Atlantic, 82 employees.**

"As with most other states, our Legislature is totally clueless about how laws they pass create hardships on small business. I am running a second-generation business in Pennsauken and Camden, and when I speak to business owners in other states, they are amazed at our property tax, insurance and benefit costs." **Distribution, Camden, 60 employees.**

NJBIA will continue to work hard to make sure the Governor and the Legislature understand how difficult it is to do business in New Jersey and why they must take action to make our state more business friendly.

The words of our members say it all! 