

Save New Jersey News

Governor Christie wants to privatize New Jersey Network while cutting state funding. NJN Executive Director Howard Blumenthal has told all NJN staff to prepare for a January 1, 2011 layoff.

Killing the News!

State funding covers about 40% of NJN's expenses with members, corporate underwriting, federal funding, and money earned by NJN covering the rest. A 40% funding cut would:

- **End the nightly news -- maybe replaced by a talking head with little or no actual New Jersey reporting.**
- **Drastic slashes in other quality New Jersey programs.**

Why state operated?

The NJ legislature established NJN in the late '60s in response to the lack of New Jersey reporting by NYC & Philly TV stations. Since then, NJ coverage by commercial stations hasn't improved while news reporting by New Jersey newspapers has been devastated. NJN also operates the state's Emergency Broadcast System.

The need for NJN and its news and public affairs programs is greater now than ever. They're the reason the for NJN to exist.

Democracy depends on informed citizens – dumbed- down news and the amateur productions planned by managers won't fill the bill.

NJN joined half the states that have state or public university operated networks. No strong non-profit stepped forward to run NJN and none exists today. *State ownership of the hundreds of millions of dollars in NJN assets has blocked the temptation to merge NJN with out of state operators.*

Give Away the Assets?

Though non-profits elsewhere have purchased government owned broadcasters prior to taking them over (like the \$20 million paid for WNYC), the plan here is to give the taxpayer-owned assets of NJN to a private, corporate board.

A Better Choice

Please contact your state legislators and tell them to:

- * **Save New Jersey news by providing a dedicated source of funding for NJN news and public affairs.**
- * **Make NJN a more independent state agency so it can operate more nimbly and effectively.**

(Go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp> to find out who your legislators are.)

Communications Workers of America Local 1032
(609-434-1032)