



## NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CAROL A. MURPHY

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

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### **Re: NJ Ireland Trade Commission Legislation in the Department of State**

Dear Colleague,

Please be advised that in July 2023, my legislation establishing the Ireland Trade Commission in the Department of State was passed and Signed by the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

On the day of the signing of the Ireland Trade Commission Legislation into law by Governor Murphy it was an honor and privilege to present a copy of the bill to Ireland's Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Sean Fleming.

Minister of State Fleming, upon the receipt of a copy of the legislation, said,

"The establishment of the new Trade Commission is a sign of the desire to strengthen those links. The Irish Government is very supportive of the new Trade Commission, I look forward to working with its members to explore trade opportunities and academic exchanges between our young people."

In 2022, I arranged for a delegation of the America Irish State Legislators from New Jersey to visit Ireland. The American Irish State Legislative Caucus is open to everyone those who have Irish heritage and those are supporters of Ireland

The caucus members asked how we could help build the links between Ireland and New Jersey as well as support the peace process and the Good Friday Agreement, this legislation was the result of those discussions. The New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission will help communities in our State through the creation of educational, economic, and people to people links. Ireland is the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) largest investor in the US, the Ireland Trade Commission is intended to build on the two-way relationship.

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**Re: NJ Ireland Trade Commission Legislation in the  
Department of State**

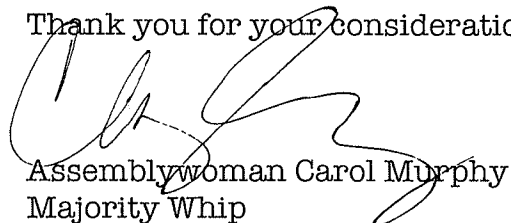
As a result of the Brexit agreement following the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, Ireland is the largest English-speaking country with direct access to the EU market of 450 million people, there are also 950 US companies based in Ireland using it as a gateway to the EU.

The legislation can be adopted as it is or amended to the respective needs of each state. The key elements of the commission legislation include:

- There is no cost to the taxpayer in the State as the Commission raises the funds to do its work, to visit Ireland and host visiting Irish Delegations.
- Twenty-three (23) people are appointed to the Ireland Trade Commission in New Jersey by the Governor, and legislative leaders in New Jersey.
- Members are appointed by the Chambers of Commerce in the State and by Department of Higher Education.
- Appointments to the commission could also include retired members of the State or Federal Legislatures so that institutional knowledge is retained. Leaders of the business community in the State with an interest in Ireland could also be appointed to the commission.

If you need any further information, regarding this piece of legislation please do not hesitate to contact my office at (856) 735-5334 or via email to [AswMurphy@njleg.org](mailto:AswMurphy@njleg.org).

Thank you for your consideration,



Assemblywoman Carol Murphy  
Majority Whip