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The Honorable Bob Menendez
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez and Senator Booker,

I wish to express my support for the re-introduction of the Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act of 2017. Last year, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) adopted amendments to Rule 2a-7 that unintentionally have burdensome consequences on cities such as Newark. The amendment, which changes the net asset value (NAV) accounting methodology for money market mutual Funds (MMMF) and imposes liquidity fees, undermines our ability to invest in important infrastructure projects that are vital to our residents.

As the largest city in the State of New Jersey, Newark will adversely be affected by its inability to issue debt for capital projects that benefit our citizens. Mutual Funds, which hold a large share of short term municipal bonds, are reliable investment tools that empower cities to make significant investments. Without these resources, municipalities are subject to higher debt issuance costs and added fiscal pressure. The Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act of 2017 alleviates some of these challenges and addresses many of the concerns that push investors away.

Thank you for your leadership in re-introducing and advancing this important piece of legislation. I look forward to working with you and supporting your efforts to defend the ability local governments have to invest in their own communities.

Sincerely,

Anibal Ramos Jr.,
Councilman