



# NAACP

**Derrick Johnson**  
*President and  
Chief Executive Officer*

**Leon W. Russell**  
*Chairman  
National Board of Directors*

August 4, 2020

The Honorable Phil Murphy  
Governor of New Jersey  
P. O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

As leaders of this nation's oldest civil rights organization, we are particularly concerned with issues of racial justice. That is the spirit in which we write to you today. We are inquiring about a racial discrimination and retaliation lawsuit filed by New Jersey asset manager Blueprint Capital Advisors against the state of New Jersey, BlackRock Alternative Advisors, and Cliffwater LLC.

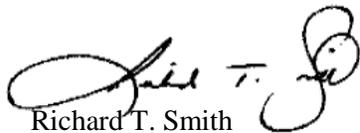
This litigation began years before your term, however, we are hopeful that you will be able to bring it to resolution. Blueprint alleges that it developed an innovative investment tool to save public pension funds millions on fees paid to money managers. They state that their proprietary tool was given to BlackRock Alternative Advisors after New Jersey committed to investing over \$500 million with Blueprint to run its FAIR program.

Black people are no strangers to injustice. We walk into every business situation wondering if we will be evaluated based on our ability and the content of our character or eliminated based on the color of our skin. We are at a moment in this nation where Black people are tired of asking for that which is just, fair, and right. We are in a moment where allies of Black people are expressing their commitment to ensure that Black people no longer make these demands alone. We are asking you to investigate this matter, and if it is determined that an injustice has occurred, we are asking you to do what you can to ensure equity and justice.

Thank you in advance for your attention, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
Derrick Johnson  
President and CEO  
NAACP

  
Richard T. Smith  
Member NAACP National Board of Directors  
President NAACP New Jersey State Conference