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Gov. Christie On Exxon: This Is \$225 Million On Top Of Paying To Fix What They Polluted

Thursday, January 1, 2015

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Gov. Christie On Exxon: This Is \$225 Million On Top Of Paying To ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoOxdcl6khs>

Transcript:

Question: Hello Governor. My name is Bick Treut and I live in the best town in New Jersey, Somerville. I just wanted to ask you a question. I'm a state employee, so I'm now paying about \$6500 into my health care, and it's not killing us. We're doing OK, but I'm a little concerned about the deal with Exxon, and just wanted to get your opinion on it because what I read in the newspapers gives me one side and I want to hear your perspective.

Governor Christie: Sure.

Bick Treut: Evidently it's an \$8.9 billion lawsuit and that someone in the state has agreed to a \$225 million, you know, closure for that, and it's actually \$180 million after paying for the law fees, right? And there's also like another 2.3 billion in tax cuts to businesses and when I look at these charts I think about those breaks and as opposed to like having the money come out of our backs. I just wanted to get your thoughts on that.

Governor Christie: Sure. Well first thing is the reports on the Exxon settlement are as usual not completely accurate. You would think that the 225 million was all we got, right? Right. Wrong. 225 million is on top of what they have to pay to fix what they polluted, and there is no cap. They have to re—they have to—not re. They have to fix everything that they polluted up to state standards, and there is no cap on what they have to pay, so no matter what it cost them to fix what they created they have to pay, and then on top of that they pay another 225 million for having done the act in the first place, so the idea that this has been reported as a \$225 million settlement, that's 225 million clear of fixing the problem they caused, and one of the things that we were able to negotiate because we litigated so aggressively was

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no cap and no cap other than the standard that they have to reach and satisfy the state Department of Environmental Protection that they fixed the problem, so how much this is going to cost ultimately to them I don't know, but here's the other thing: neither do they, because we're the ones who ultimately decide either it's cleaned up or it's not cleaned up and they have to keep going until we say it's cleaned up. Now if you read the New York Times you would never know this. You would never know this. You know why? Because it's actually a really good settlement and then the Times would actually have to say something nice about me.

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Press Contact:

Kevin Roberts
609-777-2600



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Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000