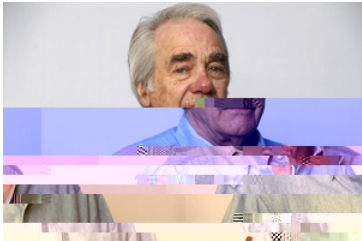


## OPINION: KEAN'S PORT AUTHORITY PROPOSAL LOOKS LIKE A WIN-WIN FOR GOP, DEMS

CARL GOLDEN | MARCH 4, 2015

The Senate minority leader's plan seems to have something for everyone, including avoidance of a potential loss of face for Christie and Sweeney



Carl Golden

In as adroit a political maneuver as has been seen around the Statehouse in many a year, the proposal by Senate Minority Leader Tom Kean Jr. to bring greater accountability and openness to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey by merging elements of recommendations of a study commission with provisions of legislation vetoed by Gov. Chris Christie in December accomplishes the following:

Not a bad day's work.

It was an open secret that some Senate Republicans were dismayed by the governor's veto, although only one, Sen. Michael Doherty of Warren County, publicly pledged to support an override.

Several of his colleagues agonized privately that as much as they supported Christie and had stood resolutely by him on earlier vetoes, they were wavering on such a high-profile issue as strengthening the hand of New Jersey and New York in dealing with the Port Authority.

Adding to their discomfort is the investigation by the U. S. Attorney of the authority's involvement in the lane closures at the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee as well as a probe of former chairman David Samson -- a close confidant of Christie -- over possible conflicts of interest and ethical misbehavior on his part.

In this atmosphere of uncertainty, a potentially wide-ranging scandal and possible indictments,

In all likelihood, Kean conveyed the growing

