

# Stevens & Lee Public Affairs



## James E. Benton

Senior Advisor

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Jim served for four decades as the State Director of the New Jersey Petroleum Council, a division of the American Petroleum Institute, the largest oil and natural gas trade association in the country. With a nuanced understanding of the interplay between energy industry and public policy needs, he provides clients with insight on navigating state government frameworks to advance their goals.

During his tenure with the New Jersey Petroleum Council in Trenton, Jim represented the energy industry in all facets of New Jersey and regional operations, including refining, marketing, transportation, shipping, homeland security, research and development. He contributed to energy policy at all levels of New Jersey state government, engaging with governors, legislative leaders, congressional representatives, local officials and agency officers. His successful advocacy has shaped petroleum and natural gas initiatives, and alternative energy development, including wind and solar, and nuclear energy policy.

Jim has a reputation for creating broad coalition advocacy, including engagement with the NJ Society of Environmental and Economic Development (NJSEED), the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce (NJCC) Board of Directors and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA). Along with many other constituencies, Jim developed close ties to the NJ Food Council, AFL-CIO, various state utilities, NJ Building and Construction Trades Council, and the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB).

In 2006, Jim served a tenure as Mayor of his present hometown of Pennington, New Jersey. Earlier in his career, he served in the Office of Legislative Services in Trenton and the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce.

### Affiliations

- New Jersey Society of Environmental and Economic Development, Board of Directors, 1984-Present
- New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, 2012-2021

**Education**

- Rider University, M.A.
- Rider University, B.A.