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LOTTERY "MARCH MADNESS" NEW JERSEY'S MEGA MILLIONS JUMPS TO \$345 MILLION AND POWERBALL HAS SHOT UP TO \$455 MILLION

New Jersey Players Are Winning Prizes from \$2 to \$1,000,000

TRENTON (March 16, 2018) – With the Mega Millions jackpot rolling to \$345 million for tonight's drawing and Powerball hitting \$455 million for tomorrow night's drawing, New Jersey Lottery Acting Executive Director John M. White has some advice for procrastinators who planned on waiting until the last minute to buy their tickets.

"Buy your tickets early and avoid what are sure to be some long lines later tonight and through tomorrow," advised Executive Director White. "This \$345 million jackpot is the ninth largest that we've ever seen for Mega Millions, and the whopping \$455 million is the 8th largest for Powerball. It's March Madness" alright, so we're certain that these will be busy days for our retailers and exciting ones for our players."

White urged players to remember that playing the lottery is a form of entertainment and to keep in mind the importance of playing responsibly.

"Don't miss out on this opportunity for your chances at two big jackpots," White continued. "Anything can happen in Jersey! You only need one ticket for each game and, with a little 'Irish Luck,' you just might win a 'Pot O' Gold."

These giant jackpots are having a positive impact on the State of New Jersey and its economy. Since the roll over began, each of these games have contributed millions back to the State. Over \$29 million in Mega Millions sales in New Jersey alone, has generated an estimated \$12 million contribution to our State. Likewise, the almost \$34.5 million in Powerball sales has returned almost \$13.8 million to New Jersey. As well, our retailers, from small 'Mom & Pop' businesses to large corporate chain stores, have shared in almost \$3 million in commissions since these rolls began. That's money that can be used to grow their business or be put back in the local economy. That's all part of the ripple effect that this game has on our State.

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