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The battleship New Jersey is in another fight. This time it must ward off efforts to move the ship from the Camden waterfront to New York, in view of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Every effort should be made to keep the most decorated battleship in U.S. history harbored on the Delaware River, where it has been for more than a decade.

Thanks to a sluggish economy and state budget cuts, the tourist attraction is struggling to make ends meet. Its state subsidy has plummeted from $1.7 million in 2010 to just $32,500 last year, not even enough to pay the monthly electricity bill for the 887-foot, 45,000-ton battleship museum.

The nonprofit Home Port Alliance, the museum ship's operator, needs to first figure out how to pay off the $900,000 balance on a $1 million 2003 bank loan. Then it needs to develop a new business strategy to attract more visitors and generate more revenue to make the museum self-supporting.

Alliance officials must also satisfactorily address troubling questions raised about compliance with state charity rules and concerns about financial ties between the ship and the Delaware River Port Authority. Salaries paid to its top officials also merit closer scrutiny.

In the meantime, the USS New Jersey Battleship Foundation would do well to scrap its plan to raise $15 million to dredge a site at Liberty State Park and move the ship to New York. The already busy park can't match the Camden waterfront's more tranquil setting.

The Battleship New Jersey is harbored near Wiggins Waterfront Park and Adventure Aquarium in Camden County. (Green Acres staff photo)

The New Jersey can still play a key role in the continued revitalization of the Camden waterfront, along with the Adventure Aquarium, the Susquehanna Bank Center, and Campbell's Field, home of the minor-league Riversharks.

The philanthropic and corporate communities have come to the ship's rescue before. They may be needed again. Navy veterans, ship lovers, historians, and anyone who wants to see the Camden waterfront thrive should step up, too.