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Acting Governor Kim Guadagno Continues her “Open for Business” Tour with Stops in Sea Bright and Little Silver

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Bain's Hardware and Ye Olde Pie Shoppe Exemplify Resilience and Determination of New Jersey's Small Business Owners

Trenton, NJ – Continuing her “Open for Business” tour to highlight the rebuilding and recovery spirit of New Jersey’s businesses, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno today visited Bain’s Hardware in Sea Bright and Ye Olde Pie Shoppe in Little Silver to meet with employers and patrons, and to encourage New Jerseyans to support their local businesses.

“Business owners Frank Bain and Tom Caruso are perfect examples of the resiliency of New Jersey’s small business community. Despite the damage Superstorm Sandy brought to their businesses, both entrepreneurs are determined to rebuild stronger and better to keep the Jersey Shore open for business,” said Acting Governor Guadagno.

Tom Caruso has owned Ye Olde Pie Shoppe for 28 years, selling homemade pies, cakes and pastries.

“The greatest thing that we can all take out of this is how resilient folks are, especially in New Jersey. We really are a tough group of folks here,” said Caruso. “With all the rebuilding that’s going on, I think everyone is very diligent about getting it back together. It’s business as usual for most of the local economy. Everyone is getting back up and running.”

Frank and Pat Bain have owned Bain’s Hardware in Sea Bright since 1994. Despite the damage caused by Sandy, Frank Bain is as optimistic as ever about the future of Bain’s Hardware and the Sea Bright community.

“We believe in Sea Bright and our community. Our customers came to help clear the mess left behind by Sandy,” said Bain. “And our customers had held off on their projects to wait for me to reopen - there’s nothing better than that. Of all the things we lost in Sandy, we did not lose customers. They’re all back and we have room for more.”

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, Governor Christie has made assisting affected New Jersey small businesses a priority. In addition to initiating a statewide business impact assessment in collaboration with the state’s leading business groups, the Christie Administration worked with the Small Business Administration to secure nearly \$189 million in loans for thousands of residents and small businesses, and provided lines of credit through the state’s Economic Development Authority for businesses awaiting insurance reimbursement, grants for job training, and benefits for displaced workers. New Jersey was also the recipient of a \$15.6 million National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to hire unemployed state residents to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts.

Businesses are encouraged to call the state’s Business Action Center at 1-866-534-7789 for assistance and information on the many business advocacy services available through the state. Information is also available by visiting the state’s business portal at www.newjerseybusiness.gov.

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