

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: January 13, 1999

### **Governor Celebrates Victory in Securing Federal Funds to Protect Viability of NJ Ports, 60 Million in Federal Dollars to Support 166,500 Jobs and the Vibrant Port Economy**

Gov. Christie Whitman today praised the efforts of the New Jersey Congressional delegation and the responsiveness of federal officials in helping her secure \$60 million in funds from the upcoming federal budget for the Port of New York and New Jersey. The federal funding will help ensure that the port maintains its position as the nation's premiere shipping destination.

Last fall, I wrote to the President and urged him to recognize the importance of this country's greatest port facilities and to provide federal dollars to support our vital efforts to deepen the channels and make our ports more competitive," said Gov. Whitman. Today I am pleased that the federal government is responding to our call for assistance."

The new federal funding is an important downpayment on the future of the ports - a future which will require continued dredging of the ports to keep up with changing industry standards," said the Governor. Our efforts to modernize New Jersey's ports will protect more than 166,000 jobs in the areas, and families who depend on those jobs."

The Governor also thanked the entire Congressional delegation for their continued efforts to champion New Jersey's ports, and Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, in particular, for his leadership on the Appropriations Committee in making sure that past budgets have included funds for the ports.

Throughout her administration, Gov. Whitman has been an ardent supporter of New Jersey's port economy. She has provided more than \$120 million for dredging-related projects to help the ports remain internationally competitive. The Governor has also worked throughout her term to ensure that the federal government recognizes the importance of the Port of New York and New Jersey.

