

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Governor Whitman Applauds Passage of Open Space Legislation as Historic Moment in New Jersey's History**

Gov. Christie Whitman today issued the following statement following the final passage of the Garden State Preservation Trust Act by the Legislature.

"The passage of this historic legislation guarantees we will deliver to the people of New Jersey exactly what they want: one million acres of open space and farmland for their children and for the children of every future generation.

"Every step of the way, this momentous initiative has been embraced wholeheartedly - by the voters last November, by the Legislature which passed this bill, and now by the federal government which has already begun to look at our initiative as a national model.

"The Garden State is leading the nation in recognizing that our most precious resource must be protected before it is too late. It is gratifying to me personally and as the Governor of New Jersey that our national leaders share our vision for a cleaner environment through open space and smart growth.

"I thank Senate President Don DiFrancesco and Assembly Speaker Jack Collins, who sponsored this historic legislation, for their dedication to open space preservation. Together, we are not only keeping the Garden State green, we are making other states green with envy."