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Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Continues her “Open for Business” Tour with Stop at TreeHouse Antique Center in Historic Cape May

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Surviving Superstorm Sandy Without Significant Damage, Tourism Businesses Seek to Change Perception About Storm's Impact on Cape May

Trenton, NJ – Highlighting that Cape May's tourism-related establishments are open for business, including restaurants, bed and breakfast inns, wineries, art galleries and antique shops, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today visited the TreeHouse Antique Center in Cape May, and encouraged New Jersey residents to support their local businesses.

"Escaping Sandy's physical damage, Cape May and other shore towns are experiencing the false perception that they were severely damaged by the storm," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "In reality, Cape May is 'Open for Business' and is as beautiful as ever. There is every reason for visitors to come enjoy all this historic national landmark has to offer."

TreeHouse Antiques, which opened in 2003, is home to more than 20 antique dealers from the Mid-Atlantic region. Dealers specialize in antique furniture, china, glassware, linens, jewelry, American Art Pottery, stained glass, lighting, and historical memorabilia. In addition, TreeHouse is committed to promoting New Jersey artisans and items made in the United States.

"Many people assumed that all of the Jersey shore was damaged and that's not the case in Cape May," said Susan DeMaio, owner of Treehouse Antique Center. "Visitors can enjoy Cape May right now, so come on down. Make your summer plans. The beaches are beautiful. The B&Bs are standing and gorgeous. The restaurants are open, the shops are open, wineries and art galleries are open for business and I know a fabulous antique store everyone might want to visit!"

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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