

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Pete McDonough
609-777-2600

RELEASE: June 4, 1998

Whitman Calls for Examination of Sports Development Alternatives

Gov. Christie Whitman today called for a full examination of potential development at the Meadowlands Sports Complex that could include commercial development, refurbishment and expansion of the current Continental Area or the construction of a new arena in East Rutherford. She also indicated that her administration would be willing to evaluate the development of an arena at other locations in the state.

"New Jersey is the home of some of the world's greatest sports teams, and we want to ensure that those teams will play in a world class facility," the Governor said.

"At the same time, we have an even greater obligation to ensure that the taxpayer's interests are served. Needless to say, the first step is an exhaustive review of all possible alternatives," she said.

The Governor indicated that she wants to keep New Jersey's teams in the Garden State, that she wants to make sure that the Meadowlands Sports Complex remains viable and that the taxpayers' investment is limited.

Both the Nets and the Devils have expressed a desire to play in an upgraded or expanded facility that is comparable to other facilities in their leagues. The teams have indicated a willingness to consider sites located outside of the Meadowlands Complex.

"Whatever the future plans are for the facility, I want to be certain that there is a consensus between the teams and the taxpayers. The decision to proceed will be based on shared interests and vision," she said.

"Fundamental to any decisions about future development will be a significant and substantial contribution of private capital. We will require private participation in any expansion," the Governor said.