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NEWS RELEASE

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Whitman Statement on CAFRA Oversight Resolution

NJ Gov. Christie Whitman issued the following statement today after the Senate's approval of a resolution that would provide legislative oversight of proposed regulations to provide orderly development, curb runaway growth and prevent environmental degradation of much of the New Jersey coastline:

"The regulations offered by the Department of Environmental Protection are consistent with nearly 30 years of responsible state policy designed to protect our fragile coastline from the ravages of over-development, runaway growth and out-of-control sprawl," Gov. Whitman said.

"These rules were the product of enormous community input to assure that they are in keeping with the needs the public and the environment," she said.

"Since 1973, the Coastal Area Facilities Review Act has helped stem the tide of over-development. I think that most New Jerseyans share my recognition of the coast as one of our most important natural assets and would hate to see our efforts to ensure coordinated and rational development dismissed in an oversight resolution," she said.

"I believe that this resolution is out-of-step with good environmental policy, sound public policy and the hopes and dreams that most New Jerseyans hold for our fragile and beautiful coastline," the Governor said.

"I am concerned that the resolution adopted by the Senate tonight will be viewed as a backdoor attempt to weaken our policies on coastal development. The proposed rules are clearly in accord with the legislative intent of CAFRA. If there is truly a sentiment to change our important restrictions on coastal development, those changes should be the product of legislation, not the product of a legislative oversight resolution," she said.