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NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: September 24, 1998

Statement of Gov. Whitman on Port Authority's World Trade Center Action

New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman issued the following statement regarding today's decision by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to privatize ownership of the World Trade Center:

"Several years ago, Gov. Pataki and I initiated the process of disposition of the World Trade Center and I am pleased that the Port Authority voted today to move in that direction," said Gov. Whitman.

"The Port Authority's action is consistent with the common vision that Gov. Pataki and I share for the agency. We believe that the residents of both of our states are best served if the authority focuses on its central mission as a transportation and economic development tool to benefit the region," the Governor said.

"The management and control of World Trade Center is not consistent with our desire to return the authority to its central mission. Gov. Pataki and I agree that private sector involvement in the operation of the World Trade Center will provide the Port Authority with additional funds for important regional transportation projects in the New Jersey and New York region," Gov. Whitman said.