

# Office of the Governor

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SCHEDULING CHANGE Whitman Cancels World Trade Organization Visit**

NJ Gov. Christie Whitman has cancelled her plans to attend the World Trade Organization Ministerial Meetings in Seattle, WA, next week.

Gov. Whitman was scheduled to attend meetings with fellow US governors, Secretary of State Madeline Albright and several meetings with international trade representatives.

Scheduling conflicts and decisions by high-ranking representatives from US trading partners to not attend the meeting diminished greatly the benefit of the meeting.

"Foreign trade is critical to keeping New Jersey's economy on its record expansion. More than 500,000 current New Jersey jobs are related to foreign trade and investment and certainly, decisions by the WTO will have an affect on our foreign trade future," Whitman said.

"Absent the opportunity to meet with high ranking officials from our trading partners, my attendance at the summit simply would not have been as productive as I would like," she said.