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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Whitman Visits North Brunswick Senior Center, Bringing Message of Open Space Preservation

Governor Christie Whitman today addressed an audience of senior citizens at the North Brunswick Senior Center in North Brunswick about the significance of open space preservation and the important role that seniors have played and can continue to play in protecting the state's open space for future generations.

"A year ago, New Jersey voters proclaimed that open space preservation is a legacy they want to leave for their children and grandchildren. By an overwhelming margin, voters approved our plan to preserve one million acres of open space over the next ten years," said Gov. Whitman.

Gov. Whitman urged those at the North Brunswick Senior Center to now support North Brunswick's Open Space Trust Fund referendum when they vote next month, and praised Councilwoman Peggy Scarillo for her leadership role in this initiative.

The North Brunswick Open Space Referendum is Question Number 4 on this year's election ballot, which would dedicate up to three cents per \$100 of assessed value for open space preservation and would be determined each year based on need. North Brunswick would also be able to raise money to help leverage county and state funds that are already available for open space preservation, if the referendum passes.

"Here in North Brunswick, in a county that has seen so much growth over the past several years, the need for preservation is urgent," said Gov. Whitman, bringing the message home to an audience which played a big role in the passage of her open space plan during the last election.

The Garden State Preservation Trust Act, which was signed in June 1999, dedicates a stable source of funding to save one million more acres of undeveloped land by 2009. The Garden State Preservation Trust is responsible for approving projects submitted by Green Acres, the State Agricultural Development Committee and the New Jersey Historic Trust. It will also submit at least two appropriation bills to the Legislature each year.

"By voting for this measure," said Gov. Whitman, "you'll help build a better future for all the people of your town. Open space preservation means a better quality of life for every North Brunswick resident."

"Your vote counts - and it will continue to count every time someone benefits from these open acres, permanently preserved for all time," continued the Governor. "New Jersey will have to be smart about the way we grow in the next century. By passing this referendum on November 2nd, North Brunswick will be providing an excellent model to follow," she said.

