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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor and Senate President Announce Pact to Preserve Greystone Land

Gov. Christie Whitman and Senate President Donald DiFrancesco today announced their commitment to preserve as open space and park land the majority of the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital property.

The Governor and Senate President made the announcement in response to recent questions about the disposition of the Greystone property.

"The voters of this state sent a clear message in November that they want to preserve 1 million acres of land over the next decade," said Gov. Whitman. "The state now has the opportunity with the Greystone property to preserve most of it as open space and park land. I can think of no better way for the state to show its commitment to protecting open space than to preserve land that it owns."

"The resolution on the future of the Greystone land addresses both the very real needs of the mental health community and the tangible need to preserve undeveloped properties," said Senate President DiFrancesco. "There can be no greater goal for us as a state than to protect the precious resources that will be in short supply without such continued diligence."

Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital is located on 671 acres in Morris County. The administration has agreed to set aside 75% for land preservation. The remaining 25% of the land will remain in the hands of the Department of Human Services, and will be used to serve the needs of mentally ill in the northern portion of the state.