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NEWS RELEASE**GOVERNOR VISITS AT&T;, HIGHLIGHTS SECOND TERM AGENDA**

Gov. Christie Whitman today highlighted her second term initiatives today when she took part in an employee forum during a visit to AT&T; Corporation in Basking Ridge. The Governor discussed her administration's efforts to reign in auto insurance and property taxes, preserve more open space and improve the quality of life for New Jerseyans.

"Together with both houses of the Legislature I have been working to enact real auto insurance reform," said Gov. Whitman. "Last week, the Senate passed a bill that guarantees a fifteen percent reduction in auto insurance rates. I am confident that the Assembly will act soon to pass this important reform. And I give you my word. As soon as this bill hits my desk, I'll sign it. New Jerseyans shouldn't have to wait any longer for reform."

The Governor also discussed her continued focus on lessening the tax burden on New Jersey businesses and families, including her plans to:

- require a 2/3 super-majority vote in the Legislature for tax increases,
- put local property tax hikes above the rate of inflation on the election ballot,
- move school elections to November to increase turnout and input in school budgets, and
- abolish the sales tax on calls across regions.

The Governor also highlighted the promise she made during her second Inaugural address in January to preserve 300,000 additional acres of open space in the next four years.

"Preserving open space and farmland is a critically important goal over the next four years. And our ultimate goal is to preserve one million acres in the coming decade," said Gov. Whitman. "We must marshal all available resources to preserve our open space before development overwhelms the pace of preservation."

During the visit, the Governor participated in an employee forum and answered questions from the audience. Employees at the company's facilities in Bridgewater, Bedminster and Middletown also participated in the forum via e-mail and video-link.