

## Office of the Governor

### NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: December 15, 1998

#### **Governor Whitman Discusses Smart Growth at National Conference**

New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman today told the National Partners for Smart Growth Conference in Austin, Texas, that New Jersey is attacking the problem of suburban sprawl both by saving precious open space and by promoting smart growth everywhere else in the state.

"Preserving open space and strengthening our cities go hand in hand. Preservation refocuses development to areas where infrastructure already exists - our cities and older suburban areas," Gov. Whitman said. "Over the years, all the incentives for building encouraged sprawl in that they pointed against redeveloping in our cities."

The Governor pointed to initiatives in New Jersey that are helping to direct growth back into the cities, such as the brownfields program and the first-in-the-nation building code especially for rehabilitated buildings.

The second annual conference, which focuses on balancing open space preservation with development, is hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the Urban Land Institute and the Smart Growth Network.

Governor Whitman's proposal to preserve 1 million acres over the next decade has been hailed as one of the most aggressive land preservation programs in the country. Together with the 1 million acres of land already preserved as farmland and open space, the acres will total more than 40 percent of the total land mass in the Garden State.

New Jersey is one of three states featured for its smart growth initiatives during the conference. Florida and Texas were also featured.

A text of the Governor's remarks is attached.