

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
609-777-2600

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Governor's Weekly Radio Message Focuses on Preserving One Million Acres of Farmland and Open Space

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week the Governor urges support of Public Question No. 1, a ballot initiative that will dedicate a stable source of funding for preserving open space and farmland and help support the Governor's goal of preserving one million acres of open land over the next decade. Preserving this land will ensure clean water and air for New Jerseyans. It will mean more greenways and land for recreational use. Local farmstands will be able to continue to provide New Jerseyans with fresh produce. The Governor encourages all New Jerseyans to vote on Nov. 3.

Attached is the text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

Governor's Weekly Radio Message October 30, 1998 One Million Acres!

How big is one million acres? It's more than 10 times the size of Philadelphia, five times the size of New York City, and 65 times the size of Newark. One million acres is more than the entire state of Rhode Island.

At the polls on Tuesday, November 3, you will see a question on the ballot called Public Question Number 1. It asks you to support our plan to establish a stable source of funding for open space, farmland, and historic preservation. This proposal, which will not increase a single statewide tax, would enable us to reach the goal I have set for New Jersey: preserving 1 million acres of open space and farmland within the next decade.

What will a yes vote mean to you?

It will mean clean water. Some of the land preserved will protect watersheds. It will mean more greenways along streams and trails. It will mean more land purchased for recreational use. It will mean your local farmstand will continue to provide Jersey Fresh produce rather than fruits and vegetables trucked in from other states.

Just as important, what will a yes vote mean to your children and grandchildren?

These million acres won't be developed, like so many open spaces and farms that have been lost to office parks, housing complexes, and shopping centers in recent years.

These million acres will continue to clean New Jersey's water and air.

Thirty years from now, these million acres will look much like they do today - lush and open, clean and green, beautiful and inviting.

Isn't this the kind of New Jersey we want our grandchildren to know - a New Jersey with fields and farms and public spaces?

Yes, it's important to build new homes and businesses, which bring new jobs and opportunities. We'll still have plenty of land on which to do that. But we have to preserve now. We must not pave over our prosperity by ignoring our common need for fresh air, open space, and thriving farms.

If you are like most New Jersey voters, you have supported Green Acres bond issues for preservation in the past. This proposal does Green Acres one better. It establishes a long-term, dependable, predictable source of funding which will allow us to plan our preservation.

We'll be able to preserve farmland so that farms are contiguous and pose fewer problems with nearby development or right-to-farm issues. We'll be able to save contiguous parcels of open space so that you can hike upon miles of undisturbed land. We'll be able to save the most precious acres, including those that protect our watersheds so that we can have clean and plentiful drinking water.

Whether you vote yes or no, Public Question No. 1 on your ballot this year is one of the most important votes New Jersey voters will ever cast. I encourage you to take part in this historic vote - and I hope you will agree that there are a million reasons to give our children and grandchildren a chance to enjoy the New Jersey we know and love.