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## NEWS RELEASE

Gov., Christie Whitman today signed the following pieces of legislation:

**A-1435**, sponsored by Assembly Members Paul DiGaetano (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Guy F. Talarico (R-Bergen) and Senators Henry P. McNamara (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Andrew R. Ciesla (R-Monmouth/Ocean), creates the Meadowlands Conservation Trust and creates a Meadowlands conservation license plate to raise revenue to support the Trust. The purpose of the Trust will be to acquire and hold, or acquire and convey to other government entities or to qualified nonprofit organizations, environmentally important, valuable or sensitive lands located in the Hackensack Meadowlands or within the Hackensack River watershed. The lands will be permanently preserved. The bill also establishes the Meadowlands Conservation Trust Fund, a depository for monies: (1) received as a grant by the Trust; (2) donated to the Trust; (3) received as a rent or as a royalty; (4) received as net revenues from the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in connection with the issuance of Meadowlands Conservation license plates as authorized by the bill; and (5) appropriated by the State to the Trust. The Trust's board of trustees shall be comprised of seven voting members, of whom four shall be private citizens appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

**A-1819**, sponsored by Assembly Members Nicholas Asselta (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Jack Collins (R-Salem/Cumberland/Gloucester), directs the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property to review and modify all bid and product specifications relating to the purchase of agricultural commodities by state and local government entities in order to encourage the maximum purchase of New Jersey agricultural commodities. The bill is intended to assist farmers in selling their products through state contracts.

