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NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Whitman Named to Head Amtrak Reform Council

Gov. Christie Whitman was elected today to head the Amtrak Reform Council at the organization's first meeting in Washington, D.C.

"It is truly an honor to be elected to serve as Chair by the members of the Reform Council," said Gov. Whitman. "The Council has the important responsibility of determining the future of national passenger rail service. A decision about the future of Amtrak will affect not only passenger service, but also the movement of goods throughout New Jersey and the country."

The 11-member Amtrak Reform Council was established under the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 to evaluate Amtrak's performance and make recommendations for achieving cost containment, productivity improvements and financial reforms. Gov. Whitman was appointed to the Council by House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

The Governor said she views intercity passenger rail service as integral to the mobility and economy of the residents of New Jersey and sees her role as providing a voice for the state in vital discussions about the long-term future of Amtrak.

At the Council's first meeting, the members received briefings from Amtrak, the General Accounting Office and congressional staff. The Council members agreed to coordinate their efforts with a study of Amtrak being conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Inspector General.