

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Governor Directs Attorney General to Prepare for Pipeline Fight Looks to Congressional Delegation for Help with Clinton & Gore**

NJ Gov. Christie Whitman today directed Attorney General John Farmer to take all appropriate legal action to block the proposed Transco pipeline in the event that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission grants a permit for the project. The pipeline, which would run through some 90 miles of New Jersey, received a final environmental impact statement today from the staff of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

"On July 28th, I wrote to the Chairman of the FERC voicing my concerns regarding the potential hazards of the proposed pipeline and assessments that there is no compelling public or economic need for the venture," Gov. Whitman said.

"New Jersey has made an historic commitment to preserving open space and protecting the health and safety of our residents. I am deeply concerned that the proposed pipeline is inconsistent with our goals," she said.

"Our initial review of the FERC staff's environmental impact statement does nothing to address my concerns and I am directing the Attorney General to be prepared to take legal action in the event that the FERC grants a permit for the pipeline," she said.

"Although the pipeline has not received its final permit from the FERC, I believe that the time is upon us to not only to prepare for responsible legal steps, but to engage in all appropriate political action, as well," the Governor said.

"Our congressional delegation has pulled together in a bipartisan fashion and been fully supportive of our position on this matter. I will be counting upon our US Senators and Representatives to join me in appealing to the President and Vice President to personally intervene by reviewing the proposed pipeline," she added.