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NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR VISITS MOONACHIE MANUFACTURER; EMPHASIZES STATE COMMITMENT TO JOB CREATION

Gov. Christie Whitman today emphasized New Jersey's commitment to economic development efforts and job creation during a tour of Caleca USA Corp. in Moonachie. The company received state assistance to help it in its transformation from a distributor of ceramic tableware to a manufacturing operation.

"This is an example of how a partnership between government and business can set the table for success," Gov. Whitman said. "When the company wanted to change from distribution to manufacturing and thus fill orders for dinnerware faster, the state was there to help."

"Tax-exempt bonds arranged by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority allowed Caleca to purchase the kiln," the Governor said. "The Department of Labor provided funds for customized training for workers."

"And in turn, Caleca has been able to increase its payroll to 60 people," Gov. Whitman said. "More jobs mean more New Jersey families with hope for the future. And that makes for a stronger state."

"Continuing a two-century tradition, Caleca products are hand-painted originals," she said. "This individual attention yields excellent results. We in state government want to give that same attention to the businesses that make New Jersey prosper."

"We've already helped the economy grow by more than 260,000 jobs since 1994, but we can do better," Gov. Whitman said. "So we are reconstituting the Department of Commerce. We're making it more flexible so we can respond to economic trends more quickly. We don't want to miss any opportunities to create more jobs."

The Moonachie operation of Caleca USA Corp. receives bisques from Italy which it hand paints and sends through a kiln which bakes and cools down the products for shipment to customers.

The Economic Development Authority issued \$1.75 million in tax exempt bonds and guaranteed \$1,050,000 of the securities in 1996 to enable the company to purchase manufacturing equipment. The New Jersey Department of Labor also provided assistance to the company in the form of a \$183,800 grant for training workers. The company's workforce grew from 15 to about 60 as a result of the transformation from a distributor to manufacturer.