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PRIVATE SECTOR SAYS THAT *SMART GROWTH IS SMART BUSINESS*

**Former Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening Unveils New National Report
that Illustrates Economic Opportunities from Smart Growth**

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WASHINGTON, DC – With the spinoffs of urban sprawl, like oppressive commutes, huge infrastructure funding shortages, and a scarcity of worker housing, eating into profits and eroding metro areas' competitiveness, business leaders across the country are pushing for smarter planning and development, according to a report unveiled today by former Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening.

The report, "Smart Growth is Smart Business – Boosting the Bottom Line & Community Prosperity," documents sprawl's economic impacts and profiles 17 business-led efforts to counter it, whether by adopting alternative business models or pushing for policy change. Some examples include:

- The New Jersey National Gas Company, which has joined with the City of Asbury Park and the state of New Jersey to encourage revitalization of older urban communities by reinvesting in existing infrastructure;
- Whole Food Markets, which has developed a forward-looking strategy of locating new stores in old neighborhoods to push revitalization;
- The Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, whose leaders have become gravely concerned about the long-term health and competitiveness of the their sprawling region , and have launched a campaign for land-use and transportation reform;
- Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse, Inc., Baltimore-based developers who have profited by redeveloping former industrial wastelands and historic areas, adding new vitality – and tax revenues – for their host cities;
- San Francisco's Bay Area Council, 275 employers banding together to invest \$150 million in brownfields redevelopment, affordable housing and other smart-growth projects.

Glendening, who has gone on to become a national advocate for smart growth after implementing it in his home state, distributed the report on behalf of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, which he now heads, and the National Association of Local Government Environmental Officials. The report, the result of consultation and review among 44 business and policy experts across

the country, was released at the American Planning Association's annual conference in Washington, DC on Monday.

The report won praise from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chief Michael Leavitt. "When businesses and government work together to pursue quality growth, we act as stewards of both our economy and our environment," Leavitt said. "The 'Smart Growth is Smart Business' report demonstrates that quality of life, economic progress, and prosperity can go hand in hand."

The "smart growth is smart business" message is being echoed by business leaders. Kenneth Lewis, Chairman and CEO of Bank of America, said that, "For us, business and environmental issues go hand in hand. We care about protecting the environment because the health of the environment directly affects the quality of life of our associates, our customers and our communities." Sam Williams, President of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, says, "communities facing sprawl have learned the hard way, that growth for growth's sake is not sustainable, and that investments in smart growth are essential for economic progress." Another participant in the project, the Wisconsin Realtors Association, is profiled in the report for actively supported the state's 1999 Comprehensive Planning Law. As noted by the Association's Tom Larson, "nobody has a larger stake in quality of life issues or a greater awareness of what is going wrong with communities than realtors."

These and more examples are highlighted in the Smart Growth is Smart Business report. The report profiles 17 business smart growth initiatives by Bank of America, BellSouth, Johnson Development Corporation, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, ShoreBank Corporation, the Sierra Business Council, the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont Business Roundtable, and the Zipcar and Flexcar companies, among others. The report also provides a number of smart growth resources for further information and support.

For a copy of the report visit the Smart Growth Leadership Institute's web site at www.sgli.org, or the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professional's web site at www.nalgep.org.

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