



**State of Delaware
Office of the Governor**

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**Strengthening Livable Delaware focus
of Governors' Institute**

Dover – Strengthening and sustaining Governor Ruth Ann Minner’s Livable Delaware agenda into the future was the focus of a cabinet workshop this week with former Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening and Smart Growth experts from across the country.

The Governors’ Institute on Community Design, headed by Governor Glendening, met in Dover with Governor Minner, Lt. Governor John Carney, cabinet secretaries and high-level staff on Wednesday and Thursday. Governor Glendening championed successful Smart Growth initiatives in Maryland during his eight-year tenure from 1995-2003.

Since he left office, Glendening founded the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, which receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide free assistance and technical advice to states through the Governors’ Institute on Community Design.

“How we guide growth in Delaware is vital to our quality of life, our tourism and agricultural industries, our natural environment, and our reputation as a desirable place to live and work,” Governor Minner said. “After seven years of hard work, this workshop was a great reminder that we have very powerful laws and tools already at hand, but our guests also made a series of valuable and actionable recommendations to improve our efforts now and beyond this administration.”

“Because Governor Minner has been such a leader in promoting more sustainable development practices, I know she feels a sense of urgency for Delaware to continue efforts on where future growth should go,” Governor Glendening observed. “She has a deep appreciation for the beauty and quality of life in Delaware and is rightfully worried about Delaware’s continuing loss of farmland and open space due to poorly planned development.”

Recommendations include building a new coalition concerned about Delaware’s quality of life; continue prioritizing capital and discretionary funding decisions with Livable Delaware goals; refining relevant permitting programs; and relentlessly communicating with residents about the

costs of unplanned growth. The Governor said she intends to discuss and implement those recommendations through her Cabinet Committee on State Planning Issues.

“Do you want the character of Delaware to shape new development, or do you want new development to shape the character of Delaware?” Ed McMahon of the Urban Land Institute asked the group. McMahon was one of three experts brought to the workshop by the Governors’ Institute.

Others included Douglas I. Foy, who served as Secretary of the Office for Commonwealth Development for former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, and Feather O. Houston, who served in the cabinets of Governor Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania and Governor Tom Kean of New Jersey. She is now president of the William Penn Foundation.