

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Embrace of Smart Growth Principles in Carcieri Economic Strategy Praised

Grow Smart Calls for Translating Broad Principles into Specific Actions

Providence (RI) Grow Smart Rhode Island, a non-profit public policy group representing a broad coalition of partners fighting sprawl and dedicated to strengthening city and town centers, announced today that it is encouraged by the Carcieri Administration's decision to have much of the state's new economic strategy guided by smart growth principles.

Reacting to the substance of the Carcieri Administration's newly unveiled economic development strategy, Grow Smart Board Chairman Michael F. Ryan praised the Administration for recognizing the strategic value of Rhode Island's unique *quality of place* and the plan's emphasis on achieving growth that's right for Rhode Island.

"The Administration appears committed to ensuring that Rhode Island's trump cards---- its distinctive character, open spaces, coastline and historic neighborhoods --- are integrated into a long-term economic development strategy. In fact, the Administration's approach seems to favor protecting these assets while at the same time leveraging them to attract investment in areas of existing and underutilized infrastructure."

Grow Smart's Executive Director Scott Wolf says that now the key is to translate these smart growth principles into action steps. "In the coming months we look forward to working with the Administration on several specific policy initiatives in support of this strategy, including targeting state investments to mixed-use "growth centers", full adherence by the State Properties Committee to requirements for prioritizing the siting of

state facilities in distressed or downtown areas, new incentives for brownfield redevelopment, expanding appropriately sited affordable housing opportunities, developing new long term funding strategies for both land conservation and affordable housing, and reducing the state's reliance on the sprawl inducing local property tax."

Wolf noted that Grow Smart has established a monthly "e-brief" electronic newsletter to better publicize a myriad of national, state and local smart growth trends, conferences and policy reforms such as smart growth zoning codes that are building blocks for the type of economic development strategy outlined by the Administration. Free registration for the "e-brief" service is available at Grow Smart's website www.growsmartri.com.

Grow Smart Rhode Island is a non-profit public policy organization representing a broad coalition of interests fighting sprawl and promoting innovative policies and programs to revitalize urban, town and village centers, preserve cultural and natural resources and expand economic opportunity for all Rhode Islanders.