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Executive Order No. 14 Regarding Gov. Minner's "Livable Delaware" Agenda

WHEREAS, Delaware has a well deserved reputation as an ideal place to live, work, raise a family, and enjoy recreational activities;

WHEREAS, our natural resources, sound economy, opportunities for personal and business success, and overall quality of life will add almost 190,000 additional Delawareans by the year 2020, a growth rate faster than any northeastern state;

WHEREAS, Delawareans are concerned that the quality of place in our state is threatened by sprawl, traffic congestion, loss of farmland and open space, diminished air and water quality, and a shortage of affordable housing;

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WHEREAS, residential, transportation and employment patterns can have direct impacts on the means by which we move about the State and attainment of Delaware's air quality goals and the protection of public health;

WHEREAS, haphazard sprawl and unplanned growth create an inefficient demand for public infrastructure, services and facilities that all Delaware taxpayers must finance, no matter where they live;

WHEREAS, the Cabinet Committee on State Planning Issues has undertaken an extensive process of analyzing long term growth trends, soliciting public opinion, and considering the implications of expected growth throughout the State over the next 25 years, and has approved a comprehensive set of goals and strategies set forth in "Shaping Delaware's Future: Managing Growth in 21st Century Delaware, Strategies for State Policies and Spending" to guide Delaware's overall development and to ensure efficient, rational and cost-effective investments in necessary infrastructure;

WHEREAS, those development goals are restated herein:

- Direct investment and future development to existing communities, urban concentrations, and growth areas.
- Protect important farmlands and critical natural resource areas.
- Improve housing quality, variety and affordability for all income groups.

- Ensure objective measurement of long-term community effects of land use policies and infrastructure investments.
- Streamline regulatory processes and provide flexible incentives and disincentives to encourage development in desired areas.
- Encourage redevelopment and improve the livability of existing communities and urban areas, and guide new employment into underutilized commercial and industrial sites.
- Provide high quality employment opportunities for citizens with various skill levels to retain and attract a diverse economic base.
- Protect the state's water supplies, open spaces, farmlands and communities by encouraging revitalization of existing water and wastewater systems and the construction of new systems.
- Promote mobility for people and goods through a balanced system of transportation options.
- Improve access to educational opportunities, health care and human services for all Delawareans
- Coordinate public policy planning and decisions among state, counties and municipalities.

WHEREAS, these planning goals provide an opportunity to promote sustainability of our economic and ecological growth and will maintain and enhance the qualities that make Delaware a unique place to live;

WHEREAS, the State must provide leadership and set an example by bringing its policies, programs, regulations and expenditures in line with the approved goals and strategies, and must play a major role in encouraging growth in areas that we've agreed are appropriate to accept it;

WHEREAS, my State of the State Address of January 25, 2001, calls for the development of "Livable Delaware" principles to keep sprawl in check, reduce traffic congestion, strengthen our towns and cities, improve our environment and protect our significant investment in roads, schools and other infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE I, RUTH ANN MINNER, by the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, hereby declare and order on this 22nd day of March, 2001:

1. As part of Livable Delaware, the Office of State Planning Coordination shall immediately make available to all State departments and agencies a copy of the "Shaping Delaware's Future" report and the adopted state development goals, along with instructions for preparing the implementation response called for herein;
2. All State departments and agencies shall, no later than August 31, 2001, complete and submit an implementation plan for these development goals and strategies which:

(a) Identifies all Department programs, policies and actions which are impacted by or can be used to support the state development goals and strategies;

- (b) Identifies administrative, organizational, regulatory, or statutory actions to be taken, including those already taken or underway, to ensure compliance and consistency with the state development goals and strategies;
 - (c) Identifies existing laws, programs, policies and actions that impede implementation of the development goals and strategies;
 - (d) Identifies how capital and budget planning will be used to implement the State investment strategies;
 - (e) Identifies essential legislative actions needed to ensure that state agency authorities and programs are consistent with and support the development goals and strategies;
 - (f) Sets forth an action plan, schedule for undertaking such actions, and proposes measures to gauge progress toward achieving the State development goals and investment strategies.
3. No later than October 31, 2001, the Cabinet Committee on State Planning Issues shall review and provide comments to the agencies and Office of State Planning Coordination on the implementation responses required in this Executive Order.

APPROVED this ____ day of March 2001
Ruth Ann Minner
(SIGNATURE)
Governor

(STATE SEAL)

Dr. Harriet N. Smith Windsor
(SIGNATURE)
Secretary of State