

# *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

## **N.J.'s broken land-use system must be fixed**

Re: "Report: N.J. population drain hurts," Oct. 11:

What's the best way to stem the growing exodus of workers and businesses from the Garden State? Fix the state's broken land-use planning system. Developers across the state complain that it can take years to win project approvals, while in neighboring states such as Pennsylvania, it often takes just months.

Gov. Corzine must act immediately to streamline state agency regulations and cut the red tape. The planning process can be fixed. We have the tools and strategies we need to build communities with housing that workers can afford in locations that are transit-friendly and close to where the jobs are.

Better land use can reduce auto-dependency, improve air quality, protect open space - and build a better life for all New Jerseyans. This is a surefire way to keep Garden State taxpayers where they belong: in N.J. homes, working for N.J. businesses.

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