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### **1000 FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR**

Hartford, CT (September 2011) — 1000 Friends of Connecticut, a non-profit organization that advocates statewide for Smart Growth, announced Nichole Strack, a recent Trinity College graduate, as its new Executive Director.

According to Susan Merrow, the Chair of the Board of Directors, Nichole “exemplifies the type of bright, young professional that Connecticut not only wants to attract to our state, but retain for the long-term. Her passion for our cause and her work ethic catalyzed our Board’s sense of resiliency—and at no better time for our state.”

Michelle Gilman, Secretary of the Board, explained that 1000 Friends is one of numerous groups that experienced organizational struggles at the onset of the economic recession. According to Michelle, “The full-time position has been open for a year and a half and we are enthusiastic about the new initiatives we have well underway.”

Nichole further explained, “Our cause—Smart Growth—affects such a broad group of stakeholders that it mandates a diverse Board of Directors to bring our constituencies’ points of view together and instantiate a public conversation through which to positively impact policy. I am thrilled to be in a position that enables me to contribute to the Board’s vision and make Connecticut a more sustainable place to live and do business.”

Nichole interned with the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) in the spring of 2010 and also served as CTLCV’s Program Associate until the summer of 2011. In May 2010, Nichole began interning for 1000 Friends and enthusiastically accepted the position as Executive Director this summer. She graduated from Trinity College with her Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy and Law.

1000 Friends of Connecticut was established in 2005 out of a deep concern that Connecticut’s growth patterns, if left unchallenged, would lead the state further into sprawling landscapes, abandoned cities, clogged highways, and a flagging economy. The group speaks strongly for property tax reform, regional cooperation, the coordination of state and local plans of conservation and development, better zoning codes, and the

fundamental Smart Growth principle of locating development where infrastructure and transit already exist.

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If you'd like more information on this topic, please visit <http://www.1000FRIENDS-CT.org>, or call 860.523.0003.