



## **Barbara McConnell**

**1935-2016**

Barbara McConnell passed away on October 21, 2016. She was part of the team that wrote the 1986 Clean Communities Act, using her influence with the legislature to affect its passage. Barbara was the first chair of the state Clean Communities Committee, formed in 1989 following the passage of the Act. She served as Trustee and Vice President of the NJ Clean Communities Council until she retired in January of 2016.

Barbara spent more than 30 years as a government relations professional, public policy adviser and business/association executive. Starting her career as a staff assistant to a Member of Congress, in 1991 she was appointed by Governor James Florio to his Cabinet as New Jersey's first woman Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

Prior to her Cabinet appointment, Barbara was President and CEO of the New Jersey Food Council for thirteen years representing over 400 grocery retailers and manufacturers. It is recognized as one of the state's most prominent trade associations. She served two terms in the New Jersey General Assembly from 1978 until 1982 and was Executive Director of the New Jersey Division of Tax Appeals in the administration of Governor Brendan Byrne. McConnell is a past President and CEO of the National Food Industry Association Executives.

She was the recipient of the Robert Pellet Leadership Award in 2006.