

March 2, 2015

Senator J. Raymond Lesniak
985 Stuyvesant Ave.
Union, NJ 07083

Re: Pinelands Commission Nomination

Dear Senator Lesniak,

We are writing to urge the Senate to withhold confirmation of the pending nomination for the Pinelands Commission, Robert Barr to replace Robert Jackson, when it comes before the full Senate in the coming weeks.

We believe that at this time and in the present circumstances, this nomination would undermine the independence of the Pinelands Commission. For thirty-five years, the Pinelands Commission has been the bedrock of the Pinelands conservation effort. Its extraordinary success in that mission is due in great part to the fact that it has functioned as an independent executive agency without undue interference in its implementation of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. Recent events threaten to erode that independence.

The Senate can preserve the integrity of the Pinelands program, and help protect the work of other independent executive agencies, by withholding confirmation of this nomination at this time. As former governors for whom the Pinelands represents one of New Jersey's great – but ever-vulnerable – treasures, we ask for your help at this important juncture in the life of the Pinelands.

Sincerely,



Brenda T. Byrne



Thomas H. Kean



Christine Todd Whitman



James J. Florio