

January 3, 2007

Honorable Lisa Jackson, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Re: Borough of Fair Haven Green Acres Diversion application

Dear Commissioner Jackson,

I am writing to express my support for the Borough of Fair Haven's Green Acres Diversion application which was recently re-submitted to your office for review.

As I stated in my letter to you dated July 19, 2006, while I understand (and agree with) the Department's general policy not to allow placement of wireless telecommunication facilities on parkland encumbered by Green Acres restrictions except in extremely limited circumstances, I believe this qualifies as one of those limited circumstances.

Fair Haven Borough is an older, completely "built-out" municipality with very few privately owned lots available for development, yet the Borough is basically being forced by federal mandate to build a cell tower in the municipality. These two incompatible facts have forced the Borough to make some difficult choices about siting the tower. Ultimately, I think their choice of Fair Haven Fields is the best (or perhaps "least bad") one.

The Fair Haven Fields site will have the least impact on the residential areas of Fair Haven. The land being "swapped" is considerably larger than the parcel needed for the cell tower and it's contiguous to Fair Haven Fields, so there will ultimately be *more* open space than before. Most importantly, I can tell you that from my conversations with a large number of my Fair Haven constituents, an overwhelming number favor this site.

I urge you to take all of these things into account and give strong consideration to the application prepared by Fair Haven. I believe their application meets the criteria, laid out by your staff at our September 26th meeting, which needed to be met for the Department to allow the land diversion.

Finally I would like to thank you and your staff for your cooperation on this issue. Your willingness to work with the Borough of Fair Haven on this difficult and sensitive issue is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Beck
Assemblywoman, 12th District

Cc: Mr. Adam Zellner, Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Legislative Affairs
Mayor and Council, Borough of Fair Haven