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January 11, 2007

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street, PO Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Jackson:

On behalf of the Borough of Fair Haven, I am urging the NJDEP to support the borough's application regarding a land diversion located at Fair Haven Fields. I am grateful to you and your staff for taking time to meet with borough officials and provide much-needed guidance for the application's approval.

The result of the diversion, if approved, would add over 1.3 additional acres to the Fair Haven Fields parkland, a true benefit to residents and the environment. In addition, the smaller parcel of land in Fair Haven Fields that the Borough proposed to receive would be intended as the site for a cellular tower in the borough. The residents of Fair Haven will benefit from both increased natural and recreational acreage and increased cellular phone reception, which is essential to routine communications as well as emergency preparedness.

Fair Haven officials have also shown resourcefulness by dedicating all funds generated from the cell phone tower toward local recreation and park maintenance, a resource that has been lacking in recent years.

The Borough of Fair Haven has sought the guidance of NJDEP to best meet the department's demands for the land diversion and has prepared a thorough application for your review. This proposal represents a true partnership between local and state officials, and is a win/win for residents of Fair Haven.

Thank you for your consideration on this application and please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Mike Panter
Assemblyman, 12th District

cc: Fair Haven Mayor Michael Halfacre
Fair Haven Borough Council