



Ex-NJ governors ask Senate to halt vote on Pinelands nominee

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TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - Four former New Jersey governors want to delay a vote on Gov. Chris Christie's appointment for a southern New Jersey panel overseeing a million-acre pine reserve.

Former Democratic governors Brendan Byrne and James Florio joined Republicans Christine Todd Whitman and Tom Kean Sr. in asking the state Senate to withhold a confirmation vote on Robert Barr.

The governors voiced their opinion on Christie's Pinelands Commission appointment in a letter sent to all senators dated Monday. They say they believe the nomination would "undermine the independence" of the commission.

The letter and appointment come about a year after the commission blocked a proposed natural gas pipeline that would have gone through the pinelands in southern New Jersey.

The Christie administration supported the project;
environmental groups opposed it.

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