Dear Pinelands Commissioner,

 I am a Pinelands enthusiast and New Jersey resident, and I am highly concerned about the influx of off-road vehicles into the preserved areas of the Pinelands National Reserve. In Wharton State Forest alone, your science staff has documented over 220 sites that have been damaged by ORV use, and the problem shows no sign of slowing. Without a legally binding road-map which denotes the roads that vehicles are permitted on, that number will surely grow, and identified sites will worsen in severity of damage.

The designers of the Comprehensive Management Plan had great foresight in empowering the Pinelands Commission with authority over motorized activities. The language below indicates that the Commission is obligated to ensure motor vehicles are used only appropriately.

**Section 7:50-6.143 states the following:**

***The Commission shall from time to time designate areas which are inappropriate for use of motor vehicles.******Such designation shall be based upon the following considerations and upon consultation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and other interested persons:***

*i. A need to protect a scientific study area;*
*ii. A need to protect the location of threatened or endangered plant or animal species;*
*iii. A need to provide a wilderness recreational area;*
*iv. A need to prevent conflicts with adjoining intensively used recreational areas;*
*v. A need to protect historic or archaeological sites;*
*vi. A need to protect critical wildlife habitats;*
*vii. A need to address a situation of public health and safety;*
*viii. A need to protect extensively disturbed areas from further impact; and*
*ix. The extent to which such road closure would substantially impair recreation access to and uses of surrounding resources.*

Over the past year, you have heard about the need to solve this issue from ecologists, recreationalists, law-enforcement personnel, NJDEP, and even moderate off-road vehicle users and all agree that a road-map is a worthy measure. By consulting with the public over recreational needs and consulting with the NJDEP over enforcement concerns, the Commission has fulfilled all of the requirements of the Comprehensive Management Plan to act on the issue.

I urge you to approve the much-discussed road map officially designating the appropriate roads for motor vehicle use. We need you to address this present and growing threat so that the Pinelands will be forever enjoyed in its natural condition by NJ residents, visitors from around the country, and others who come from the world over to enjoy this special place.