

June 8,2020

Senator Sweeney  
935 Kings Highway, Suite 400  
West Deptford, NJ 08086

**Re: Pinelands and Highlands Nominations**

Dear Senator Sweeney:

The undersigned organizations and individuals are requesting your support and action on the Pinelands and Highlands nominations. As you know, an environmental legend and hero, Candace McKee Ashmun, has passed away. She is known as the godmother of the Pines and was instrumental in both the Pinelands and Highlands Regional Plans. To honor her and her work, we ask for swift action to fill her seat and the seats of others pending confirmation by the Senate.

Candy wrote a letter to you last year about her love for the Pines and the New Jersey environment. Candy identified Theresa Lettman as her “replacement” and one of the few people that Candy felt comfortable passing the torch to. Ms. Lettman was the first nomination made by Governor Murphy, was approved by all of her Senators, and is ready to serve. It would have given Candy great comfort to know the seat she had filled for the entire 40-year history of the Pinelands Commission has been filled by a person who also brings decades of selfless work for the Pinelands. Candy’s legacy can live on by confirming Ms. Lettman now.

The Pinelands and Highlands are struggling without appointments. Our open spaces that we all treasure rely in part upon the Pinelands Commission and Highlands Council to oversee regional development and protect the water quality and water supply upon which millions of residents and visitors to South Jersey rely.

Thank you for your leadership on open space funding and hopefully you will find value in helping to advance these nominations. For any questions or comments, you can reach Jaclyn Rhoads with Pinelands Preservation Alliance at 267-221-5274 or [jaclyn@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:jaclyn@pinelandsalliance.org).

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Kean



Christine Todd Whitman



James J. Florio

Jaclyn Rhoads, Assistant Executive Director  
Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Fred Akers, Administrator  
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

Michele Byers, Executive Director  
New Jersey Conservation Foundation

Lori Charkey, Executive Director  
Bergen SWAN

Jennifer Coffey, Executive Director  
Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission

Ed Cohen  
Sustainable South Jersey

Tim Dillingham, Executive Director  
American Littoral Society

Cindy Ehrenclou, Executive Director  
Raritan Headwaters Association

Heather Fenyk, Ph.D., AICP/PP, President of the Board  
Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership

Laurie Howard, President  
Passaic River Coalition

Alan Hunt, Director of Policy and Grants  
Musconetcong Watershed Association

Doug O'Malley, Executive Director  
Environment New Jersey

Ed Potosnak, Executive Director  
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

Captain Bill Sheehan, Riverkeeper  
Hackensack Riverkeeper

Julia Somers, Executive Director  
New Jersey Highlands Coalition

Eric Stiles, Executive Director  
New Jersey Audubon

Fred Stine  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Jeff Tittel, Executive Director  
New Jersey Sierra Club

Jim Waltman, Executive Director  
The Watershed Institute

Britta Wenzel, Executive Director  
Save Barnegat Bay