

31 Hudson Place
Weehawken, NJ 07086
August 25, 2006

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine
Office of the Governor
State House
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Corzine:

We attended the public hearing at Liberty State Park (LSP) which was sponsored by Friends of LSP on August 16, to listen to the people. We believe if the NJDEP had scheduled a public hearing to consider the 8 final designs for the 9/11 Memorial Monument it would have alleviated a great deal of controversy. At the very least, Friends of LSP should have been represented on the memorial design committee.

At the last public hearing we attended in 2001, the NJDEP's Division of Parks and Forestry invited the public to submit comments on three alternatives being proposed for the Interior Plan to be developed in LSP. The hearing was well attended and comments were helpful in the decision-making process.

In the State brochure describing LSP the first two sentences read: "Liberty State Park is a green oasis in the middle of metropolitan northern New Jersey. With magnificent views of the New York Harbor and the Manhattan skyline, it is truly a gem of the Northeast."

Dating back to 1958, this was the vision. Throughout the years the hearts and minds of the people were stirred to make LSP a reality. On Flag Day, June 14, 1976, the first 35 acres of LSP were completed and officially dedicated. It was a long, hard struggle and a proud event in history for the State of New Jersey and the nation.

Throughout the continuing development of LSP the State of New Jersey and the people have been very protective to insure that the views of the majestic Hudson River, New York skyline, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island not be jeopardized in any way. It is critical that this awe-inspiring, panoramic view which is unequalled in the world, be preserved in perpetuity and remain a legacy for future generations.

What were the guidelines given to the applicants for the 9/11 memorial design? Were the applicants made aware of the history and significance of LSP? It appears not. It is unconscionable that a design would be approved that would obliterate even a portion of the skyline and Hudson River--a view which LSP was carefully designed to protect. In addition, the 9/11 memorial

design will infringe on the Plaza area, the hub of the park's activities where festivals, cultural events, concerts, exhibits and other programs are held. Its atmosphere is a sharp contrast to that of a memorial site which demands a peaceful, serene setting where people can gather together for comfort, to reflect on the tragic attack, and to honor those whose lives were so suddenly taken away. This memorial design is not appropriate in this location.

The Grove of Remembrance was dedicated in LSP as a living memorial in honor of New Jersey's 9/11 victims. It was provided as a natural sanctuary to bring solace, comfort and hope to all people. It serves as a meaningful memorial within the park's setting.

Sincerely,



Ruth Elsasser



Max J. Elsasser

c/c: Thomas Shea, Governor's Chief of Staff
Patti McGuire, Deputy Chief of Staff
Commissioner Lisa Jackson,
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Deputy Commissioner John Watson,
NJ Department of Environmental Protection