



JAMES J. FLORIO

January 8, 2014

Dear Friends:

I am writing to tell you why I support the Pinelands Preservation Alliance's campaign to create the Brendan T. Byrne Fund for The Pinelands.

The Pinelands is dear to me, as it is to my friend and colleague, the Hon. Brendan T. Byrne. In the 1970's, I worked with Governor Byrne and his team in New Jersey to fashion The Pinelands Growth Management Program. I introduced Section 303 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, which created the Pinelands National Reserve. Later on, as Governor of New Jersey, I had the opportunity to help to implement The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. From 2002 to 2005, I served as Chair of the Pinelands Commission.

Having seen The Pinelands protection process up close and from a variety of perspectives over its 35-year history, I understand just what an extraordinary achievement this effort is – and just how hard it is to sustain that achievement over time. New Jersey is already the country's most crowded state, so the presence of hundreds of thousands of acres of forests and farm fields makes these open spaces a tempting target for building homes, offices and shopping malls. The aquifers beneath The Pinelands' forests are being used, in some areas unsustainably, to supply water for millions of residents and visitors every year. The challenges will grow as open spaces outside The Pinelands' conservation areas are used up. Only strong political support, backed up by broad public support, will save The Pinelands and its truly unique natural resources.

That brings me to the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. The Alliance is the leading advocate for The Pinelands, working across our state and region to raise awareness about The Pinelands and help families and individuals experience the wonders of The Pinelands first-hand. The Alliance argues for The Pinelands without fear or favor. During the 24 years since The Alliance was founded, I have come to respect the commitment, intelligence and integrity of The Alliance – and to appreciate the indispensable job that it is doing for all of us.

The Brendan T. Byrne Fund for The Pinelands will honor one of our state's greatest leaders and ensure that The Alliance can carry out its critical mission. I hope you will support The Byrne Fund Campaign, so that the Pinelands Preservation Alliance can be the most effective possible voice for The Pinelands for many years to come.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. J. Florio".



Thomas H. Kean

August 26, 2013

Dear Friends,

I am writing in the hope that you will support the Brendan T. Byrne Fund for the Pinelands of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. The Pinelands is one of the earth's truly exceptional natural places. With the Pinelands Protection Act, it is also a great experiment in showing that we can protect a fragile ecosystem and vulnerable fresh water supply, while fostering successful human communities at the same time. I have followed and supported the work of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance for years now. The Brendan T. Byrne Fund for the Pinelands will make certain that the Pinelands always has a strong watchdog and advocate in the Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

In my long experience of working in and with government, I have seen how vital it is to have a robust watchdog organization like the Alliance to inform the public, help citizens become actively involved, and present independent perspectives on the actions of the politicians and government agencies charged with implementing programs like the Pinelands Act and Comprehensive Management Plan. The Alliance has been serving this role for twenty-four years.

This work is getting harder with time, not easier. The Brendan T. Byrne Fund will enable the Alliance to maintain its work through good and bad times and, most important, to expand its programs to face new challenges the Pinelands is certain to face as New Jersey continues to grow.

I am especially pleased to support this sustaining fund for the Alliance because it has the endorsement and is named in honor of my friend, Brendan Byrne. Governor Byrne was absolutely critical to saving the Pinelands, giving those of us who came after him the opportunity to carry on this extraordinary experiment and make it a success. One of the most important things about the Pinelands is that this effort to save its natural resources through regional land use planning has been a project that wins the support of Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike.

And finally, I urge you to get into the Pinelands and enjoy this treasure of New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "T. Kean".