

STATEMENT OF DR. ROBERT K. ZUCK ON BEHALF OF THE NEW JERSEY ACADEMY
OF SCIENCE

In representing the 1100 members of the New Jersey Academy of Science I speak for a considerable portion of the scientists of the State, both academic and nonacademic. The Academy, of which I am a founder and past president, has been involved since the beginning of the effort to save the Great Swamp for its rich plant and animal life and for its geologic interest as a remnant of glacial Lake Passaic.

The plant life of the Great Swamp, while harboring no species unique to science, is of special interest because of its great diversity and large number of species. There will probably be 1000 species of ferns and seed plants when the collections and cataloging are done—a joint effort of the Department of Botany of Drew University and the Summit Nature Club. This collection is maintained at Drew University. About one quarter of the some 700 species of birds known in the United States are to be found here as residents and as migrants.

One of our Academy members, Dr. Kemble Widmer, State Geologist for New Jersey, points out that maintenance of the Great Swamp in its present condition is essential to the water supply of the area, on which so many individual and municipal wells are dependent.

We of the Academy are encouraged that the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge qualifies for a Wilderness Area and endorse the passage of this Bill into law. Future generations of scientists and laymen will benefit greatly from the inviolate preservation of this remarkable area.

STATEMENT OF LESLIE V. REAR, COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, MORRIS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

This testimony is written in support of the need to designate the M. Hartley Dodge and Harding Wilderness Units of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge as a Wilderness Area. As the Morris County Superintendent of Schools, I am deeply concerned over the need for the preservation and protection of such an area as a resource and learning laboratory for the development of sound educational programs in the areas of conservation and the study of nature and the environment. The Great Swamp, with the proposed Wilderness Area as the core of a permanent natural environment, is one of the few remaining areas of adequate size and containing the variety and wealth of natural environment which can afford worthwhile opportunities to serve the educational needs of the schools of Morris County and surrounding areas. The schools of the area have developed programs in this area of study and have initiated a long-range proposal for a program of environmental studies as part of a total integrated educational program.

The designation of the area as a Wilderness Area is of vital importance to the success of this educational program and to a heritage from which our young people can gain much and to which such an educational program will help them contribute for future generations. This office strongly supports the proposal to establish the Wilderness Area and urges every consideration to its establishment.

STATEMENT OF LEONARD C. BLESSING, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, NEW JERSEY
SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The New Jersey Science Teachers Association wishes to urge the inclusion of the M. Hartley Dodge and Harding Wilderness Units of the Great Swamp as one of the nation's Wilderness Areas.

This whole region, in the midst of the greatly populated megalopolis zone, is a unique and fortunate circumstance for the people of this area and the nation as a whole.

This region has been used in the past for student study and research into ways of nature, is being used at present for such and I can envision much greater utilization in the future if this great natural resource can be preserved forever.

The whole Great Swamp zone is vital to the water supply of north New Jersey and the control of floods in that part of the state. The use of the Great Swamp by migratory birds is also an unreplaceable item.

Let me say the New Jersey Science Teachers Association most heartily urges the inclusion of this area as a Wilderness Zone.