

STATEMENT OF ROBERT P. HAYCOCK, MAYOR, TOWNSHIP OF BERNARDS

The governing body of the Township of Bernards, County of Somerset, wishes to be recorded in favor of the Great Swamp Wilderness Proposal to include the 3,750 acre M. Hartley Dodge and Harding Wilderness Units in the National Wilderness System. Because of its dominant location in the eastern portion of the Great Swamp, the Dodge Area would have a key effect in the preservation of the entire 8,000 acre Great Swamp National Landmark. Coupled with this, 750 acres of our township's land lying at the western end of the Great Swamp is to be included in the new Somerset County Passaic River Park. Most of the land in between these areas has already been donated to the Department of the Interior through the efforts of many individuals and of the North Jersey Conservation Foundation.

Through the joint efforts of individuals, local governments and the Federal Government, one of the last unique and irreplaceable wilderness areas will be preserved.

STATEMENT OF MAYOR JAMES H. PLANTE, TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM

In behalf of the governing body of the Township of Chatham, I wish to assure you of our support of the Great Swamp as a Natural Wilderness Area.

The Great Swamp is land that would normally not be developed due to swamp-like conditions of the soil, and any alteration of its natural state, either by construction of a jetport or development of homes, would disturb the water table necessary for the continued functioning of the underground water supply.

With the growth in the surrounding communities of land that is properly developable, a great hardship is placed on wildlife creatures to find a place to live. This wildlife oasis, unique in an area that is all too fast becoming metropolitan, should be maintained for its educational advantages to this generation as well as those to come.

RESOLUTION OF THE MORRIS COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

"Whereas, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Morris have previously gone on record in favor of the establishment of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and

"Whereas, the open space and conservation values of this area are of great significance to the residents of Morris County, and

"Whereas, this area is included in the Open Space Element of the Morris County Master Plan adopted by the Morris County Planning Board on December 1, 1966,

"Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Morris go on record as approving the recommendations of the Department of the Interior that the M. Hartley Dodge and Harding Wilderness units be included as part of the National Wilderness System."

STATEMENT OF ROBERT A. ROE, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

We are most interested and pleased to add our support of this most significant preservation program and the Federal Government's proposed administration and management of the unique qualities of this region as a Wilderness area.

I am sure that the people of New Jersey as well as citizens of other parts of the United States will find this wilderness area of deep interest from the educational and scientific standpoint and that it will furnish many hours of delightful recreation to an ever-increasing number of our people who are enjoying the out-of-doors.

Historically, the Great Swamp Area has been of great interest and has played an integral part in the variety of flora and fauna in New Jersey. Its establishment as a Wilderness Area will continue to contribute to the value of our wildlife resources and maintain a record of those who will have an opportunity to enjoy the area in the future.