

You can see that our people look on this area as a good place in which to live and work. They are interested in their communities and are attempting to do something about good planning and good government. They look to groups such as the North Jersey Conservation Foundation and New Jersey's Department of Conservation and Economic Development to see that their faith in New Jersey and their efforts in its behalf have not been wasted.

For these reasons I support the proposal to establish the M. Hartley Dodge and Harding Wilderness Units of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge as part of the Wilderness Preservation System and I urge quick action by this Committee to see that this is accomplished.

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STATEMENT OF JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM, PRESIDENT, THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As President of the New Jersey Historical Society, I want to add my support to the proposal that the M. Hartley Dodge and Harding Wilderness Units of the Great Swamp be made a Wilderness Area.

My interest encompasses both the conservation of a unique natural area and the preservation of a rare part of American—the world—history. Others will stress, I am sure, the natural wonders of the Great Swamp and the need to keep this region inviolate.

The Great Swamp is a matter of solid historical concern as well. Although historians too seldom see that history is made only as people relate to an environment—and that events are controlled by the natural surroundings—I have come to realize that study of the Great Swamp can aid an awareness of what we generally call history.

Certainly the story of the great glacial period is a vital concern for historians. The subsidence of the last glacier, 20,000 to 40,000 years ago, left in its wake Lake Passaic. Today's Great Swamp, of course, is the bed of that pre-historic lake. That glacier, through the Great Swamp, shaped as well the course of history.

When Washington was in Morristown for two winters of the Revolution, for example, The Great Swamp combined with the Watchung Mountains to form a nearly impregnable defense.

Subsequently, the Great Swamp dictated the routes of highways, the course of railroads, the nature of settlements. It was a place to be dreaded, to be left alone. In the shunning, a growing populace unwittingly preserved a huge drainage basin and kept in place a major portion of the Passaic River watershed.

History never ends. Today, as a mushrooming population presses in throughout the East, the Great Swamp remains as a precious open space—a place where water can still be captured for a civilization which ever faces the agony that water supplies might disappear. It is as well a place where millions of people can find a first awareness that man's place on Earth is a matter of interdependence with the simpler manifestations of natural forces.

What happens to the Great Swamp today will be judged as history by future generations. The question seems to be this: Will we have the wisdom to preserve this land for those who will follow or will we permit it to be used for just one more evidence of "progress" which can lead only to frustration?

If this was just a matter of a large area as yet unused, it would be debatable whether it ought to be preserved. But this is *not* just a large area not yet developed. This is the Great Swamp, a place of major geological history, a place of wildlife, a place of water conservation and storage.

We owe it to tomorrow to pass on this heritage unsullied. We are lucky to have it; we must not let this luck run out with our generations.

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RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, representing 45,700 members, wish to submit the following resolution in support of Bill.

Whereas, The M. Hartley Dodge and Harding Wilderness Units of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, in Morris County, is being considered for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System by the Federal Government; and

Whereas, This unique unspoiled land is the only tract being studied for permanent inclusion in the Wilderness System in both the Metropolitan Area and in all New Jersey; and