

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION

RE: A09870 / S6728: The Transfer of Certain Lands to the Oak Brush Plain State Preserve

March 2008

The Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker of the Assembly
Legislative Office Building 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assemblyman Silver:

I support the above-mentioned legislation, which will permanently protect the Edgewood-Oak Brush Plain State Preserve from further development, according to Chapter 635 of the Laws of 1987, which created the preserve. This legislation will save open space in an area of Long Island that is severely overdeveloped and suffering from air, noise and light pollution. More importantly, this legislation will ensure the sustainability of Long Island's supply of clean drinking water and will satisfy the requirements of the 1987 Sole Source Aquifer Act, which limits development within the Deep Flow Recharge Area.

The Edgewood-Oak Brush Plain State Preserve is part of the State Nature and Historic Preserve (Sec 4, Article XIV of the State Constitution) and is the largest parcel of open space west of Brookhaven and the second largest remnant of pitch-pine scrub oak habitat in New York State. It is an irreplaceable and fragile ecosystem that is home to a wide variety of migratory birds and other wildlife. The preserve and adjacent lands provide prime nesting for plant and animal species that are on New York State's Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern lists. Furthermore, the preserve and adjacent lands are part of a Special Groundwater Protection Area, a major source of drinking water for both Nassau and Suffolk counties.

I applaud Senators Johnson, Trunzo and Flanagan and Assemblymen Ramos, Raia and Engelbright for their vision and leadership in introducing this important legislation. I hope I can count on your support to advance A09870 through the Assembly's legislative process and, ultimately, its enactment into law.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:
Address:

cc: Friends of the Edgewood Preserve, P.O. Box 162, Deer Park, NY 11729