

June 4, 2008

Dear Assemblyman Englebright,

We write this letter to again request your sponsorship of Bill No A11314., which would legislatively establish the Nissequogue River State Park. We have met on many occasions and have had many conversations regarding this Park. It has become evident to us that you care about this property, just as I am sure you have come to understand the community's strong desire to protect this property. We have spoken at length regarding this proposed bill and the importance of its passage.

Your reasons for failing to not only sponsor, but champion, this bill are clearly outweighed by the benefits to the community this legislation would bring. Assemblyman, we do not agree that the mere fact that the legislation may be vetoed is relevant as there is always the possibility of a veto, for every piece of proposed legislation. We do not agree that the possibility of this bill having a chilling effect on Parks should even be a consideration. What should be of the most paramount consideration is what is best for this community, and that is the successful passage of this bill. Moreover, we believe that one should never fail to do what is right because it may offend or agitate someone else. If this were the case, there would be 1,800 units on housing on this property. Finally, with regard to the issue of this type of bill being precedent setting, I am reminded of your own bill, specifically A02605, proposed in January 2007 which seeks to establish the Stonybrook Harbor State Park as part of the State Park Preserve system. This bill, regarding land in your district, also seeks the same precedent setting outcome, creation of park through legislative action. This type of precedence, the creation and protection of parkland, is one we should all be fighting for.

Once again, we know that protecting parkland is as important to you as it is to us and we again request your help in preserving the Nissequogue River State Park. As President Kennedy said,

There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long range risks and costs of comfortable inaction. ”

We look forward to speaking with you again regarding this issue and to working with you on preserving and redevelopment of this Park.

Respectfully,

Linda Henninger, Esq.
Kings Park Neighbors Association