



NEW JERSEY SENATE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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October 29, 2014

Board of Freeholders
Camden County
520 Market Street
Camden, New Jersey 08102

Dear Freeholders:

I am writing in support of Walt Whitman Arts Center and Friends of Laurel Lake's vision to preserve three acres of land surrounding Laurel Lake. Establishing this land as "Whitman Woods" would not only give Camden County residents a place to enjoy open space and nature, but would also preserve important New Jersey history.

Whitman Woods has been used by neighboring residents as a park for over forty years. Designating the land as Whitman Woods would allow the community to continue enjoying the park. Whitman Woods is already home to many old growth trees and is known to be a home to bald eagles. Securing Open Space status for this tract of land will not only preserve the woods for wildlife and for humans to enjoy, but will also mean that the history of Walt Whitman is preserved as well. The Walt Whitman Arts Center hopes to be able to use this location as a natural compliment to their Camden facility. Similarly they hope that visitors to the woods can learn about Walt Whitman and how this land inspired his works.

Please give this application strong consideration. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Angel Fuentes

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