

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO ADD MY VOICE AND MY OWN UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESERVATION OF THE KUENER TRACT IN LAUREL SPRINGS

I AM A LIFELONG RESIDENT OF LAUREL SPRINGS, MY OWN PROPERTY IS ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE KUENER PROPERTY. I AM ALSO AN ASSOCIATE NATURALIST WITH THE NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SOCIETY AND THE CAPE MAY BIRD OBSERVATORY AND HAVE BEEN A PROFESSIONAL FIELD GUIDE FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS. I AM ALSO A MEMBER OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, NATURAL LANDS TRUST, N.J. CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE, S.J. LANDS TRUST ETC., ETC.

TO LIST ALL OF THE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF WILDLIFE I HAVE OBSERVED IN THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA WOULD TAKE NUMEROUS PAGES BUT I MUST MENTION A FEW. OUR NATIONAL SYMBOL THE BALD EAGLE LONG ABSENT FROM OUR AREA NOW ROUTINELY USES THE BIG TIMBER CREEK FOR NESTING, FEEDING, ROOSTING AND RAISING THEIR YOUNG. I HAVE SEEN THEM ON AND FROM THE KUENER TRACT MANY TIMES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS AND BARRED OWLS BOTH ENDANGERED BREEDING BIRDS IN N.J. HAVE BEEN SEEN ON THE PROPERTY. I HAVE PERSONALLY OBSERVED CLOSE TO 200 SPECIES OF BIRDS, MORE THAN A DOZEN SPECIES OF MAMMALS, A DOZEN SPECIES OF AMPHIBIANS OR REPTILES ONLY FOOTSTEPS FROM MY DOOR.

ALTHOUGH SMALL BY OPEN SPACE STANDARDS ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE WILDLIFE AND THE RESIDENTS IN THE AREA IS COMPOUNDED BY THE LACK OF SUCH PLACES. IT IS THE ONLY AREA IN LAUREL SPRINGS THAT PROVIDES!

ACCESS TO ONE OF THE "MOST BEAUTIFUL LAKES IN EUROPE OR AMERICA" ACCORDING TO WALT WHITMAN WHO SPENT HIS SUMMERS HERE CONVALESCING AND ^{COMPOSING} ~~WRITING~~ HIS MOST FAMOUS WORKS.

THE TREES ALONE ON THE PROPERTY SHOULD WARRANT ITS PROTECTION, SOME WELL OVER A HUNDRED YEARS OLD. STATELY AND ~~MAJESTIC~~ MAJESTIC THEY GIVE THE PROPERTY A CATHEDRAL LIKE ATMOSPHERE. NO DOUBT MANY WOULD BE LOST IF THE PROPERTY IS DEVELOPED.

UNFORTUNATELY OUR TOWN OF LAUREL SPRINGS IS ALMOST TOTALLY "BUILT OUT" MEANING NO OR VERY LITTLE OPEN SPACE. AREAS SUCH AS THE KUENER TRACT ARE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO WILDLIFE AND ~~BE~~ HUMANS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE ~~SPACES~~ ^{SPACES} LIKE THIS ARE ~~RARE~~ BECOMING RARER AND RARER. CERTAINLY THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESERVE THIS PROPERTY IS NOW OR NEVER.

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENCOURAGE THOSE WITH THE MEANS AND POWER TO PRESERVE THIS PROPERTY, ITS BENEFITS ARE ~~UNLESS~~ LIMITED ONLY BY OUR ACTIONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE GENERATIONS TO COME.

MOST SINCERELY

Llog B. Shaw Jr.