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August 14, 2015

Mr. Bob Martin  
Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
401 East State Street  
7th floor, East Wing  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Dear Commissioner Martin,

I'm writing, urging you and Governor Christie to carefully reconsider any development plans for Liberty State Park. This park is unique. It is one of the only green spaces in our densely populated area – and one of the only places on Earth where you can see, in one vista, the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of Liberty, and the Hudson River empty into the Bay.

It is a place of mental and spiritual solace for many. I am included in those many: I run in Liberty State Park.

It is also fair to say that Jersey City – and the entire Gold Coast – would not exist as we know them without the park. Its beauty and green space, developers tell me, are a big reason many choose to invest and build on our side of the Hudson. Without the park, our economic boom would not be as booming, and New Jerseyans would be worse off.

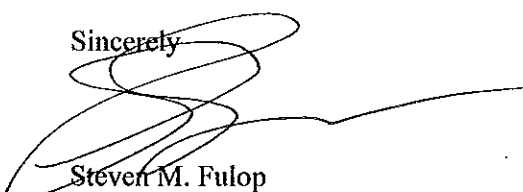
For these reasons – and many more – my Administration will oppose any plan for heavy development inside the park. We will oppose it as strongly and loudly as possible.

You should also know that my administration will not be the only one in opposition. Any development plans will be subject to Jersey City's zoning rules and regulations. That means citizens will get to have their say. And I can tell you, local residents and visitors from around the entire region will fight against plans for construction. History shows that they have fought for the park before.

Our city donated 156 acres to the state in 1965 as the first concrete step in the creation of the park, which opened on Flag Day in 1976. Years of advocacy from Jersey City activists ultimately led the state and federal governments to provide funding. It led to a transformation of a blighted, neglected shoreline into the beautiful green space we know today.

As stewards of New Jersey's precious resources, we must not erase that history of good work. And as elected officials, we must be mindful to listen to the multitude of residents who are already sending a clear message. We must not let what's arguably the most beautiful place in the state be turned into a strip mall.

Sincerely



Steven M. Fulop  
MAYOR