

**BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
COUNTY OF HUDSON**

RESOLUTION

No. 739-11-2019

On Motion of Freeholder Board as a Whole
Seconded by Freeholder _____

**RESOLUTION URGING ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CRAIG J. COUGHLIN AND SENATE
PRESIDENT STEPHEN M. SWEENEY TO POST ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4903/SENATE
BILL NO. 3357 KNOWN AS THE "LIBERTY STATE PARK PROTECTION ACT"
FOR A VOTE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS DURING
THE CURRENT LAME DUCK LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2019, this Board of Freeholders unanimously approved Resolution No. 124-2-2019 entitled, "Resolution in Support of Assembly Bill No. 4903/Senate Bill No. 3357 known as the 'Liberty State Park Protection Act' that would Preserve Liberty State Park as a Public Urban Green Open Space Free of Inappropriate Commercialization, Development or Privatization"; and

WHEREAS, Liberty State Park is the most visited park in New Jersey with over 5 million visitors annually. People from across the region visit this 1,200-acre (600 of land and 600 of water) free State Park for its panoramic views of the Statue of Liberty, Manhattan and New York Harbor, and its amenities for all residents such as gardens, paths for walking, bicycling and jogging, picnic and playground areas, and access to Ellis Island and Liberty Island ferries; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 4903, sponsored by Assembly Members Raj Mukherji, Angela V. McKnight and Nicholas Chiaravalloti, and companion Senate Bill No. 3357, sponsored by Senators Sandra B. Cunningham and Loretta Weinberg, would bar large-scale development in Liberty State Park and limit development to "small-scale commercial activities" such as bicycle or kayak rentals, food concessions, a temporary winter skating rink, commercial boat tours and other limited uses. It would bar any concessions or leases in the 235-acre restoration area in the interior of the park which is funded and being planned as a remediated nature area with trails, and at Caven Point Peninsula. Of particular note, Section 4(b) of the bill expressly provides that, "The NJDEP shall not convey, lease, or otherwise transfer any property rights within the 21.5-acre Caven Point Peninsula, the estuarine ecosystem for plants and animals, critical bird breeding habitat, and urban environmental education resource"; and

WHEREAS, Caven Point at Liberty State Park is a salt marsh with tidal uplands, wetlands, a tidal creek, and intertidal zones in the Hudson River estuary with dry land and a beach ("Caven Point Peninsula"). It is one of the two last remaining and intact salt marshes in New York Harbor. Caven Point Peninsula was purchased by the State of New Jersey with federal funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a fund created by Congress in 1964 to safeguard natural areas, water resources and our cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, from the time of its opening on June 14, 1976, Liberty State Park has had sustained overwhelming public support for a "free and green" open space park, and overwhelming opposition to privatization and commercialization proposals, as expressed in public hearings, countless public comments, petitions, and in a series of coalitions of local, regional, and Statewide groups to protect Liberty State Park as a "People's Park" behind Lady Liberty. It is fitting and proper to recognize and respect this history of overwhelming public opposition to commercialization proposals, to take action to protect Liberty State Park from any inappropriate development proposals, and to preserve Liberty State Park for future generations; and

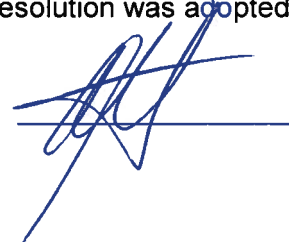
WHEREAS, this Board strongly supports the preservation of Liberty State Park as a public urban green open space, including without limitation Caven Point Peninsula, and the protections provided under Assembly Bill No. 4903/Senate Bill No. 3357 against inappropriate development, commercialization and privatization proposals.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hudson, that:

1. The aforesaid recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length;
2. This Board strongly urges Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin and Senate President Stephen M. Sweeny to take up Assembly Bill No. 4903/Senate Bill No. 3357 in the current lame duck legislative session and to enact this legislation without further delay so as to protect Liberty State Park from any proposals to commercialize or privatize this priceless public resource; and
3. Copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Senate Minority Leader Tom Kean, Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick, Hudson County's delegation to the State Legislature, and the Jersey City Municipal Clerk.

Freeholder	Aye	Nay	Abst.	N.P.	Freeholder	Aye	Nay	Abst.	N.P.
Cifelli	✓				Romano	✓			
Kopacz	✓				Torres	✓			
O'Dea	✓				Walker				✓
Rivas				✓	Chairman Vainieri	✓			
Rodriguez	✓								

It is hereby certified that at a regular meeting of the Board of Freeholders of the County of Hudson held on the 26th day of November A.D. 2019, the foregoing resolution was adopted with 7 members voting in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

 Clerk

Source: Board of Freeholders

AGS