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Proposed law would protect Liberty State Park from constant threats

Liberty State Park is a place where all people can experience nature, the beauty of the Hudson River and wide vistas, yet it is constantly threatened by developers who are looking to exploit public land for profit. The Liberty State Park protection act would preserve the park from this constant threat.

Access to the water, quiet space and visual beauty for everyone is in keeping with the hope embodied in the Statue of Liberty. The park is a fitting backdrop for Ellis Island. Parks and open space exemplify the promise of equity and the best of collective effort for the collective good in ways that commercial, private, profit-driven development projects never can. Now more than ever we are called to protect nature and address the catastrophic effects of the exploitation of the planet.

In this area luxury development dominates the political and cultural landscape and is overwhelming all aspects of life. The street level has become an oppressive environment of loading docks, parking decks and storefronts left perpetually empty and papered over with "space available" advertisements.

Developers of massive towers are permitted to declare rooftops and interior spaces as their "open space". Construction has been the daily experience of residents for nearly two decades with no sign of reprieve. Mind numbing noise, escalating heat in the summer, wind tunnels in the winter, aesthetically ugly dark canyons of streets, and flooding have become the norm as the preservation of open space and nature has been pushed aside in the service of profit.

In the midst of all of this, Liberty State Park is a miraculous place. It is a place of a hope and a real tribute to those who have worked so hard to keep it open and free for all people. It would quite possibly be the crowning achievement of this legislature to protect the park for now and for all future generations. Please contact Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and urge them to support the LSP protection act to preserve the park for all time.

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