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August 9, 2018

Catherine R. McCabe, Commissioner
Office of the Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection
401 E. State Street
PO Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner McCabe,

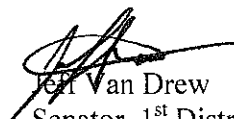
I write to you today to stand with the residents of Salem County and ask that the Department of Environmental Protection refrain from demolishing, or forcing the demolition of, several cabins off Alloways Creek. I know that you are familiar with the situation, having toured these cabins yourself back in April, and I want to thank you for taking the time and interest in seeing the issue first-hand. I know you take a pragmatic and fair approach to issues, and I believe the best course of action concerning these cabins is to take no action at all.

These cabins, first and foremost, have served as safe havens for boaters, fishermen, and hunters for generations; a spot to get out of treacherous weather or other unsafe conditions. As they do not have septic or sewerage, and are already built, these cabins pose no environmental threat. Their demolition would unnecessarily cost the State thousands of dollars.

Finally, these cabins are a part of the history and culture of Salem County. Historic preservation is not just preserving physical landmarks, but elements of the unique culture of rural South Jersey as well. As a representative of the neighboring legislative district, I join with Senate President Sweeney, Assemblyman Burzichelli and Assemblyman Talifierro in their support for the preservation of these cabins.

I want to thank you for the good work that you and your team are doing. I appreciate the interest and concern that you have taken with this issue and hope that you will contact me should I be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,


Jeff Van Drew
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