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William G. Dressel, Jr., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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June 9, 2011

RE: Cary Edwards Leadership Award
and Mr. James G. Gilbert

Mr. Peter Kasabach, Executive Director
New Jersey Future
137 W. Hanover Street
Trenton, NJ 08618

Dear Mr. Kasabach:

I commend your selection of Jim Gilbert for the Cary Edwards Leadership Award. The late Cary Edwards was a visionary and a leader in the Garden State on a whole range of important public policy issues. One of those issues was the development and implementation of the first State Plan, and the creation of an integrated planning process that involved all levels of government.

It is most appropriate, therefore, that Mr. Gilbert be honored with the Cary Edwards Leadership Award. As the first Chair of the State Planning Commission, Mr. Gilbert ventured where no one ventured before in promoting an inclusive, bottoms-up process which enabled different units, levels and branches of government to coordinate their respective visions. On face value, it might have appeared easy. In reality, it required vision, foresight and a dogged determination to get to the finish line. Fortunately, Mr. Gilbert has an abundance of these traits.

As the Past President and a current Board member of the New Jersey Planning Officials (NJPO), an organization I am proud to say is an affiliate and partner of the League, he fostered a cooperative and visionary approach to land use management and planning.

Mr. Gilbert continues his leadership through his service to NJPO, to New Jersey Future and to the Highlands Coalition, to name but a few. The League takes comfort in knowing that a resource such as Jim Gilbert remains but a phone call away. And the League is honored to consider Jim Gilbert a friend.

Cary Edwards was a visionary leader who, like Jim Gilbert, represented the very best of New Jersey. It is most appropriate and fitting for Jim Gilbert to be recognized for his leadership and accomplishment with the Cary Edwards Leadership Award.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Dressel, Jr.", written over the typed name below.

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director