



Letter to Senate Judiciary Committee on Nomination of Robert Barr to Pinelands Commission

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To: Sens. Sweeney, Scutari, Gill, Bateman, Cardinale, Doherty, Kyrrillos, Lesniak, O'Toole, Pou, Sarlo, Smith, Stack, and Weinberg

Dear senators,

As an organization committed to responsible land use policies in New Jersey, New Jersey Future urges you to halt the nomination of Robert Barr to the Pinelands Commission. His nomination will undermine the integrity and independence of the Commission, which has been a national model for protecting natural resources while allowing for responsible economic growth.

It's important to consider proposals that may advance short-term, corporate gain in terms of their long term impact on the region and the state.

Last January, the Pinelands Commission applied the law that protects the Pinelands Forest Area and denied a proposal to waive these protections for a natural gas pipeline proposed by South Jersey Gas to be routed through the Forest Area. The governor immediately made nominations to replace "no" votes with reliable "yes" votes at the expense of the integrity of the Pinelands and of our system of government.

Robert Jackson, who has served on the Commission since 2008, was one of the Commissioners who voted "No" to the pipeline project. Commissioner Jackson has a strong environmental background and good understanding of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) regulations.

Replacing a qualified public servant in order to please a corporation with development plans is bad government and bad for the Pinelands.

The state Pinelands Commission is supposed to be autonomous. We can't allow the Governor to stack the Commission in order to put a pipeline through the Pinelands.

Please oppose this effort by denying the nomination of Robert Barr to the state Pinelands Commission. The integrity of the plan to protect the Pinelands now and into the future is at stake.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chris Sturm
New Jersey Future