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Contact:

Sam Pesin, Friends of Liberty State Park, pesinliberty@earthlink.net, [201-341-7900](tel:201-341-7900)

Greg Remaud, NY/NJ Baykeeper, greg@nynjbaykeeper.org, [732-768-6033](tel:732-768-6033)

**STATEMENT FROM FRIENDS OF LIBERTY STATE PARK AND NY/NJ
BAYKEEPER ON GOLF COURSE PROPOSAL FOR CAVEN POINT AREA OF
LIBERTY STATE PARK**

*A SECOND THREAT TO LIBERTY STATE PARK'S NATURAL RESOURCES
AND PUBLIC SPACE*

Liberty National Golf Course submitted a proposal in response to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Request for Proposal (RFP) for outdoor amenities within the Caven Point property in Liberty State Park. The proposal, not yet released, is expected to detail plans for an expanded golf course.

The Caven Point Peninsula is an irreplaceable state-registered Natural Area, behind Lady Liberty, providing critical urban habitat and unique environmental education opportunities.

"The Friends of Liberty State Park strongly urges the Murphy Administration to reject the Liberty National Golf Course proposal submitted in response to the Christie Administration's RFP to lease away 21 natural acres of LSP's Caven Point Peninsula for golf holes," said Sam Pesin, President, Friends of Liberty State Park.

"With 42 years worth of overwhelming opposition to LSP privatization, new inevitable fierce opposition to this outrageous plan, and state and federal protections associated with the funding sources, this will be a lost cause for Liberty National Golf Course, which can easily use its own land or nearby available private land," said Pesin.

"Liberty National did a fine job transforming polluted land adjacent to Liberty State Park into a top private golf course. However, like all good neighbors they need to recognize boundaries," said Greg Remaud, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Deputy Director Greg Remaud. "Caven Point is public land with tremendous ecological and environmental education value, that must remain that way."

Caven Point was bought for eternity to be a natural area for the park and serve people in a densely populated urban area that would otherwise have to travel far away to gain these enriching environmental education and recreation

experiences. The Friends of Liberty State Park, NY/NJ Baykeeper, allies, and the public will work tirelessly to enforce the original intent, laws, and regulation aimed at ensuring the public will continue to enjoy perpetuity.

Background:

Caven Point is used extensively for a variety of unique urban environmental education programs. Liberty State Park Interpretive staff provide schoolchildren the exhilarating opportunity to put on waders and drag a seine net through their home waters. They capture, learn about, and release fish, crabs, seahorses, and other marine life found in our NY/NJ Harbor Estuary.

The site also provides an opportunity for public recreation and eco-tourism, given its ideal location for migrating birds. Park visitors have reported eyewitness accounts of notable species including, but not limited to, snowy owl, deer, northern diamondback terrapin, peregrine falcon, osprey, harbor seals, horseshoe crab, yellow-crowned night-heron, black-crowned night-heron, red knot, black skimmer, northern harrier, American oystercatcher, blue heron, horned lark, winter flounder and Atlantic sturgeon.

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About NY/NJ Baykeeper

NY/NJ Baykeeper is the citizen advocate of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary. Since 1989, we've worked to protect, preserve, and restore the environment of the most urban estuary on Earth benefiting its natural communities. Through our Estuary-wide programs we seek to end pollution, improve public access, conserve and restore public lands, restore aquatic habitats, encourage appropriate and discourage inappropriate development, carry out public education, and work with federal and NY/NJ state regulators and citizen groups as partners in planning for a sustainable future for the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary watershed. [Click here](#) for more information.

About Friends of Liberty State Park

The Friends of Liberty State Park is an all volunteer, nonprofit, 501(c) (3) organization that is dedicated to preserving, protecting, conserving and promoting Liberty State Park, the inspiring urban state park on the Jersey City waterfront behind Lady Liberty and Ellis Island. Since 1988, we have advocated for the protection and improvement of this urban open space park with its open vistas of the Manhattan skyline, the Hudson River and the Upper New York Bay. Our primary volunteer program is our Volunteer Garden Program which is continually beautifying LSP and always welcomes volunteers. Over 4.5 million visitors come annually to enjoy this recreational, natural, historic, and cultural public resource, which opened in 1976. Visionary citizens, Morris Pesin, the

park's "father," Audrey Zapp, the park's "godmother" and historic preservationist Ted Conrad, had led a citizens movement for 18 years to transform a waterfront wasteland of abandoned rail yards and decaying piers into one of our nation's most special public spaces. [Click here](#) for more information.

Friends of LSP battle webpage: <http://bit.ly/2hidNkx>