



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2021

Acting Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 E State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear Acting Commissioner LaTourette:

Stag Hill in Mahwah, New Jersey has deep meaning for the community in Northern New Jersey, both for its environmental beauty and cultural importance. As you may be aware, Stag Hill is the ancestral home of the Ramapough Lenape Nation. It is also an incredible natural habitat in the Fifth Congressional District, which I represent. Sadly, this scenic and meaningful land has been damaged by illegal dumping for more than half a century.

The Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization has done an incredible job with limited resources to clean hundreds of thousands of pounds of trash off of this land, including cans, bottles, furniture, appliances, and cars. Although they have received some resources from the Township of Mahwah and Bergen County to purchase supplies, tools, and signs to deter future dumping, they do not have the resources they need to finish clearing remaining piles of shingles and milling.

Illegal dumping is an abhorrent practice that is continuing to take place throughout North Jersey. We must stop these materials from further damaging our environment and contaminating our air and water. I respectfully request that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection work with the Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization and the Township of Mahwah to remove historically dumped materials that require specialized equipment and provide any resources needed to help the community deter future dumping in the area.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and I look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Josh.Gottheimer@mail.house.gov or Jennifer Mangano on my staff at Jennifer.Mangano@mail.house.gov should you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Gottheimer".

Josh Gottheimer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

JOSH GOTTHEIMER
5TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY



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Cc: Governor Phil Murphy
Bergen County Executive James Tedesco
Bergen County Board of Commissioners
Ramapough Lunaape Nation Chief Dwaine Perry
Mahwah Mayor James Wysocki
Mahwah Township Council