

A plea to Cuomo to save woodlands

The following was sent to Gov. Mario Cuomo:

"I'm one of those Americans who was moved by your sincerity (as well as your eloquence) during the Democratic National Convention. I subsequently heard you speak at Notre Dame University at another forum and again you won me. I feel some confidence, therefore, that this appeal to save the Greenbelt on Staten Island will reach attentive and sympathetic ears.

"We need — now and for future generations — the priceless, the irreplaceable national treasure that still exists here on Staten Island for all the people of New York City, for all the people of New York State.

"Please support inclusion of *all* the lands in the City Planning Department Greenbelt Study, and right now (if it is not already too late) please persuade the state to find an alternative site for the four group houses rather than in Corson's Brook Woods. After all, there are hundreds of alternative acres to choose from.

"Once gone, the Greenbelt will be gone forever. Please be one of those who did the right thing for all the people."

J. DESMOND SLATTERY
Dongan Hills

Group homes could be built elsewhere

The following was sent to Gov. Mario Cuomo:

"I attended the Feb. 7 hearing on the future of the Staten Island Developmental Center. I believe the controversy between building group homes on the grounds and conserving the unique woodland area of Corson's Brook Woods can be resolved.

"I am certain a compromise between the two very important needs can and should be worked out. Using the remaining land for the campus of the College of Staten Island seems appropriate. Proximity to the natural areas already existing and to the residents of the group homes would be mutually advantageous.

"It must be noted that the Corson's Brook acreage was recommended for inclusion in the Greenbelt and approved by the state because of its uniqueness many years ago. With all the land available there, it would seem that a site for group homes could be found that would not destroy this very valuable environmental resource."

JOAN B. MARTIN
West Brighton