

# Group home report is argued at hearing

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Conservationists slammed an environmental impact statement on the Corson's Brook Woods project last night, claiming the favorable report on the state's proposal to build four group homes in the valued woodlands contained "glaring omissions" and false information.

During an emotionally charged, four-hour public hearing on the impact study, the environmentalists also demanded that the state hold another public

hearing — but with sworn testimony and cross-examination in front of an administrative law judge.

The demands and criticisms of the environmentalists alternated with cries to build the group homes immediately. In fact, supporters of the group home project outnumbered the detractors at last night's hearing and included Rep. Guy V. Molinari, R-N.Y., and a contingency of more than 100 people representing Young Israel of Staten Island.

The hearing held at the state

Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation, which adjoins Corson's Woods, attracted more than 250 people, more than 60 of whom took a turn at the microphone. The hearing was sponsored by the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), which wants to build the group homes to house 72 severely mentally retarded people.

The controversy focuses on the construction site, a nine-acre

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Rep. Guy V. Molinari was among the speakers at the Willowbrook hearing who voiced support for locating the group homes at the Corson's Brook Woods site.