



P.O. Box 47 Long Valley, NJ 07853 • (732) 690-5420 • info@theripplecenter.org

March 6, 2022

Shawn M. LaTourette, Commissioner
401 E. State St.
7th Floor, East Wing
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

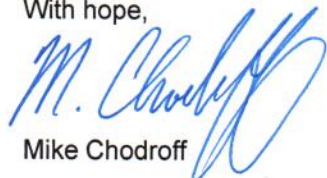
Dear Commissioner LaTourette,

My name is Mike Chodroff. I am a lifelong resident of the State of New Jersey and have been a lover and steward of our state's beautiful natural resources for as long as I can recall. I am the past president of the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education and was nominated to serve on the NJDEP Commission on Environmental Education. In those roles, I have had the opportunity to serve and network hundreds of EE providers and professionals spanning many generations, many of whom have their roots at the New Jersey School of Conservation.

Since Montclair abruptly closed the doors of the NJSOC in 2020, I have served on the Advisory Council of the Friends of the NJSOC on behalf of ANJEE. I have had the opportunity to work with individuals that had unlimited passion and purpose for reopening the property so it could continue to provide programs for all of New Jersey's residents. What struck me was how everyone connected to the Friends had extensive stories and experiences about their connection to this educational center in Sussex County.

When I was able to finally come back onto the campus of the NJSOC, it was quite apparent that the former overseers of the property really let it deteriorate from the times I remember going up there as a student in the NJ public school system. I am confident that the Friends and all of the partners that they have supporting them would not permit that to happen again. This is a group that carries the soul of this place in their hearts and minds and I have watched them put ideas into action, guided by purpose. This letter is to show my unwavering support for the Friends of the NJSOC to be the permanent managers of this incredible place.

With hope,



Mike Chodroff