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March 17, 2022

Senator Jon M. Bramnick  
251 North Ave. West  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Westfield, NJ 07090

Dear Senator Bramnick,

I am writing to ask you to support S438. I strongly favor the proposal of the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation to operate the New Jersey School of Conservation.

As a long time camper and hiker at Stokes State Forest, the School of Conservation and its campus buildings have kept a special fondness for me. I think the facilities that were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps should be protected as historic treasures.

As a graduate of Montclair State University, the School of Conservation and their Masters program in Environmental Science ought to have been an item to brag about. In fact, during my time as a student there, I did not even know that the University operated a program at the site of the SOC. I even had an upper level hydrogeology class and we possibly could have benefited from a field trip to the SOC. However, on my frequent visits to the facility, not as a student, but as a lover of antiquities, especially architecture, I was always dismayed about the condition of the buildings.

At the time that MSU announced its closure of the SOC, I was upset and hoped (against hope) that the DEP would step in and care for the buildings, and find a means to institute an environmental education program. Instead a group of concerned citizens intervened and promptly, with the help of volunteers, saved the grounds and instituted new affordable programs for scholars and lay people alike. I joined them.

I would like to see the present buildings at the SOC preserved and programs opened to students from all places in our society, schools and universities, scouting programs, etc. using this locale and its preserved natural setting to study in. It is surely a feather in the cap of the State of New Jersey. Please support S438.

Most earnestly,  
Monica Shimkus  
Cranford, NJ