

Dear Editor:

Open space preservation in New Jersey, the most densely populated state in the nation, is something Democrats, Republicans, and Independent voters can get behind. It doesn't matter where you live in Wyckoff, we will all benefit. Open spaces like Abma's Farm, Russell Farms, the Deep Voll Ravine, and Maple Lake add not only to our quality of life, but our property values. We don't really need another cul-de-sac, or another bunch of homes wedged in existing lots. If you are tired of the ongoing increase in school taxes, the \$39 our open space fund will cost us is well worth the investment. Aside from the aesthetic benefits of wooded areas, there are plenty of other advantages: improved drainage, reduced water run-off, and protection of drinking water supplies, not to mention less traffic.

We need to imitate the success of other towns in luring state and county money to preserve open space. I looked at the figures—even Bergenfield and Garfield are doing better than Wyckoff in open space preservation, using only a small amount of their own funds! Aside from elected officials getting behind the effort, we also need to set up our fund so we can get the grants. We will have the chance to set up the Wyckoff open space trust fund on November 7, and I will be voting yes.

Very truly yours,

David Lindenmann
Wyckoff, NJ 07481