



August 31, 2012

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
301 North Walnut Street, Suite 102L-1  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Re: *The State of Delaware National Park Project*

Proposed sale of certain real property located in and around Brandywine Hundred, Delaware (hereinafter, occasionally, the "Woodlawn Tract") by the Woodlawn Trustees, Inc. ("Woodlawn Trustees") of 1100 acres, more or less, to The Conservation Fund

Dear Senator Carper:

Please be advised that I support without reservation the proposed sale of the above-described property by the Woodlawn Trustees to The Conservation Fund for ultimate disposition and inclusion in the National Park system. The Woodlawn Tract is unquestionably one of "national significance."

The mouth of the Brandywine River voices a powerful story about the birth and individuation of our nation. The story of the Brandywine Valley is the story of the Lenape Indians. It's the story of the Battle of the Brandywine in this nation's war for independence. It's the story of the DuPont family and the DuPont company and their respective impact on American philanthropy and American industrial development. It's the story of the Wyeth family and its continuing impact on art and culture.

Our nation has a compelling interest in making sure that those stories are told and that the *situs* of the land that gave birth to them is kept in a manner that is both vital and recognizable. The bounty and the legacy of the Woodlawn Tract needs to be protected from development and preserved for posterity. Whether your interest lay more in the history of the area or in its use for biking, hiking, bird watching or as an environment that evokes an aesthetic and affirming appreciation of nature, the Woodlawn Tract is a national treasure and deserves the support of the national treasury.

For the reasons stated, I urge President Obama to authorize by Executive Order the inclusion of the Woodlawn Tract in the National Park system.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Clark  
County Executive

cc: Rodney A. Lambert, President & CEO, Woodlawn Trustees, Inc.