

REMARKS OF  
GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN  
AT THE  
FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PURCHASE CEREMONY  
CHESTERFIELD, NEW JERSEY  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1985

THANK YOU, ART.

NEW JERSEY'S BEEN GROWING FOR THESE LAST FOUR YEARS.

WE'RE ATTRACTING NEW JOBS. WE'RE ATTRACTING NEW  
FAMILIES. WE'RE BUILDING A NEW PRIDE IN OUR STATE.

THAT'S GOOD IN MANY WAYS, BECAUSE IT MEANS EMPLOYMENT,  
IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE AN AFFLUENT MARKET FOR JERSEY  
PRODUCTS, AND IT MEANS THAT NEW JERSEY IS A GOOD PLACE TO  
LIVE AND WORK.

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE TO THAT GROWTH -- ESPECIALLY  
IF IT IS NOT PLANNED WELL.

IF WE DON'T MAP OUT THAT GROWTH, AND DEVELOP PLANS FOR HOW BEST IT CAN SERVE THE STATE, IT CAN OVERTAKE US.

SOME OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS VALUES AND RESOURCES CAN BE DESTROYED.

AND ONE OF NEW JERSEY'S MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCES OF ALL IS HER FARMLAND -- AND THE BOUNTIFUL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE THAT SPRINGS FROM IT.

FOR YEARS, I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THE RAPID DISAPPEARANCE OF FARMLAND, NOT ONLY IN THIS STATE, BUT ALL OVER AMERICA.

FARMS ARE AMERICA'S STRENGTH. THEY FUEL OUR EXPORT SECTOR. THEY FEED THE WORLD. YET THEY ARE BEING SWALLOWED UP BY OTHER USES -- BY THE ECONOMIC PRESSURES OF DEVELOPMENT.

IN MY LIFETIME, AMERICA HAS ALREADY LOST AN AREA OF PRIME FARMLAND THE SIZE OF THE STATE OF OHIO. AND IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE -- AND THE LORD WATCHES OVER ME -- WE'LL LOSE ANOTHER AREA THE SIZE OF THE STATE OF INDIANA BEFORE I DIE.

THAT MAKES YOU STOP AND THINK.

AND IT MAKES YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING.

WELL, WHEN I CAME INTO THIS OFFICE, I CAME INTO OFFICE DETERMINED THAT NEW JERSEY, AT LEAST, WOULD NOT FORGET HER FARMERS.

THAT WE WOULD REMEMBER THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND -- AND THAT WE WOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT SAVING IT.

THAT'S WHY, TWO YEARS AGO, WHEN I CAME TO THE NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION, I SIGNED TWO KEY BILLS DESIGNED TO SAVE OUR RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING FARMLAND: THE RIGHT TO FARM ACT AND THE AGRICULTURE RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT.

THOSE BILLS WERE DESIGNED TO PROTECT FARMERS, AND TO ESTABLISH PROGRAMS -- VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS-- TO HELP PRESERVE OUR FARMS. THEY PUT THE DECISIONS ABOUT YOUR LAND IN THE HANDS OF LOCAL OFFICIALS, AND THEY ESTABLISHED A SYSTEM OF BENEFITS FOR THOSE FARMERS WHO VOLUNTARILY GIVE UP THE RIGHT TO NON-AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

WELL, TODAY, WE'RE SEEING THE FIRST FRUITS OF THOSE  
BILLS.

TODAY, I HAVE WITH ME A CHECK -- A CHECK FOR \$412,650  
MADE OUT TO BURLINGTON COUNTY.

THAT CHECK REPRESENTS HALF THE VALUE OF THE  
NON-AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT EASEMENTS ON THESE FIVE FARMS  
HERE IN CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP.

BUT IT REPRESENTS MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

IT REPRESENTS THE FIRST PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT  
EASEMENTS UNDER THIS PROGRAM.

AND LET ME ASSURE YOU OF SOMETHING HERE TODAY. THERE  
WILL BE MANY MORE.

IN FACT, WE EXPECT SEVERAL THOUSAND MORE ACRES TO BE  
ENROLLED IN PRESERVATION PROGRAMS THIS YEAR. 12 COUNTIES IN  
NEW JERSEY HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
BOARDS TO BE PART OF THIS EFFORT.

IT REPRESENTS THE CULMINATION OF YEARS OF HARD WORK BY  
FREEHOLDER BOB SHINN, BY SECRETARY ART BROWN, BY BILL  
PETTIT, BURLINGTON COUNTY'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE STATE  
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AND BY YOUR MAYOR HERMAN  
DURR.

I WANT THO THANK THEM, AND IN FACT EVERYONE WHO WORKED  
ON THIS PROJECT -- INCLUDING ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE  
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, MANY OF WHOM ARE HERE TODAY.

FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT REPRESENTS THE  
CONTINUATION OF A WAY OF LIFE FOR CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP.

IT SHOWS THAT, YES, LOCAL PEOPLE CAN HAVE A VOICE IN  
THEIR OWN AFFIARS -- THAT YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR OWN DESTINY.

I LOOK AROUND ME TODAY. AND I LOOKED AS I WAS DRIVING  
IN TO THIS CEREMONY.

I SAW CORN, AND WHEAT. SOYBEANS AND BARLEY. SO MANY  
PRODUCTS ARE "JERSEY FRESH" FARM PRODUCTS.

AND I THOUGHT TWO THINGS.

FIRST, THAT I'M GLAD WE HAVE "JERSEY FRESH" PRODUCTS IN THIS STATE. AND I'M GOING TO HELP YOU PROMOTE THEM.

BUT BEYOND THAT, I THOUGHT OF THE STRUGGLE THAT CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP HAS COME THROUGH.

I THOUGHT -- AS I LOOKED -- THAT CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP IS A FARMING COMMUNITY.

AND WITH THIS GRANT, AND AS LONG AS I'M GOVERNOR, WE'RE SAYING THAT IT WILL ALWAYS BE A FARMING COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU.