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Petty's Island Saved Forever

PRESS STATEMENT

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Pettys Island – The Natural Lands Trust takes an important first step

The Save Pettys Island Coalition enthusiastically supports the news that the Natural Lands Trust plans to accept Citgo's donation of Petty's Island.

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, applauded the vote: "Petty's Island is a 400 acre natural jewel in the heart of the Delaware River Estuary. The Natural Land Trust vote is an important first step in protecting and restoring the Island so it can contribute to a healthier Delaware River, as well as support fish, birds and wildlife, all of which enrich our lives, communities and the economy. By preserving Petty's Island as natural open space the Governor and Pennsauken residents are creating a legacy of healthy rivers and lands that all generations can enjoy."

"The clean-up and restoration of the island will be conducted more effectively now thanks to the Global Consent Order between DEP and CITGO" said Fred Stine, Citizen Action Director with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. The effective clean-up of the contamination of the island has been a common concern by both the Coalition members and the residents of Pennsauken. "Because the consent order will result in greater over-site by DEP, it will be a win-win for the natural resources and the community" said Stine. Transfer of ownership would not take place until the state was satisfied with the clean-up.

"CITGO's clean-up, restoration and donation of Petty's Island has set the right example and is clearly a benefit for the residents of Pennsauken and the entire Greater Philadelphia community" said Sharon Finlayson.

At a time we are running out of funding for open space Petty's Island will make a spectacular nature preserve for South Jersey" Jeff Tittel Director NJ Sierra Club "We thank CITGO for this wonderful gift and this victory shows that perseverance and persistence pays off."

Because the island will become a preserved green oasis in an urban area, Roy Jones, South Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, sees a bright future for Camden and Pennsauken residents, particularly the children. "Kids will be able to look over at a beautiful tree covered island with bald eagles soaring overhead instead of \$ million dollar houses" said Jones.

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Cooper River Co-chair Roxane Shinn strongly supports the preservation of the island. “There are already dozens of different wildlife species living and depending on Petty’s Island, including herons and a nesting pair of Bald eagles” said Shinn. Once the island is restored and the Crowley trucks and other business activities end, island wildlife should flourish. “Even more species will come to the island as it is restored and that means great educational and ecotourism opportunity for the community” said Shinn