



Regional Plan Association

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION ENDORSES "QUALITY OF LIFE" BOND ISSUE AND URGES APPROVAL OF BALLOT MEASURE FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Following the recommendation of its New Jersey Committee, Regional Plan Association endorsed two of the six measures on the ballot in New Jersey on November 3rd.

The first of these, the "Quality of Life Bond Issue," would authorize \$100 million in general obligation bonds to pay for regional cultural centers (\$40 million), the Green Acres program to purchase open space (\$35 million) and the preservation of historic structures (\$25 million).

The second measure would allow the state to make better use of bond monies approved in 1981 for the preservation of farmland. It would amend the Farmland Preservation Act to allow bond funds to be used to purchase farmland for resale with agricultural preservation deed restrictions attached. It would also modify the funding formula to allow the state a greater role in the purchase of easements to prevent the non-agricultural use of farmland.

"Both of these measures would further goals that Regional Plan has been pursuing for years," said Thomas J. Stanton, Chairman of the Association's New Jersey Committee and of the First Jersey National Bank. "The funds for the Green

Acres program would be used to help localities purchase or maintain public open space, while the other 'Quality of Life' bond monies--for cultural centers and historic preservation--would undoubtedly bolster New Jersey's urban centers. The Farmland Preservation question would make the Farmland Preservation Act--which the Association endorsed in 1981--more effective."

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