

Rothman Statement On Selection Of Mills Proposal For Arena Site Redevelopment

February 12, 2003

Rothman Statement On Selection Of
Mills Proposal For Arena Site Redevelopment

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today issued the following statement after learning that the New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority has selected the Mills Corp. to redevelop the Continental Airlines Arena site.

"Today's selection brings us a big step closer to realizing our dream of turning the 8,400 undeveloped acres of the Hackensack Meadowlands into an environmental park. As part of their proposal, Mills agreed to hand over the precious 600 acre Empire Tract in the Meadowlands to the State of New Jersey for preservation and will also contribute \$25 million to remediate the site, greatly assisting us in our efforts to preserve the entire 8,400 acres of undeveloped Meadowlands as an environmental park."

This development comes on the heels of Rothman's obtaining Congressional authorization and funding for a federal-state study examining the best ways to preserve these 8,400 acres. The \$5 million study will be conducted by the US Army Corp of Engineers, the US Fish and Wildlife Agency, and the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC). In addition, the NJMC is now revising its own Master Plan for the Meadowlands area and incorporating Rothman's vision of an environmental park. The NJMC has also begun making offers to private landowners -- using money in part, that Rothman got from the federal government -- to purchase privately held land in the Meadowlands for inclusion in the 8,400 acre environmental park.

"I still hope that the Devils and Nets can remain in the Continental Arena and that all development will occur around the existing Arena building. Regardless, I am delighted that thousands of new jobs will be created as a result of the redevelopment of the Arena site and that the 600 acres controlled by the Mills will now be added to our Hackensack Meadowlands Environmental Park."

###

[Go back](#)