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From: Marybeth Brenner [<mailto:Marybeth.Brenner@dep.state.nj.us>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:48 AM

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Subject: Briefing Invitation

I am writing to invite you to a briefing that will provide an overview of two important related projects the DEP recently completed -Valuing New Jersey's Natural Capital and the 2002 Land Use - Land Cover data update.

This briefing will be held on Monday, April 16th from 1:00 - 4:00 PM in the DEP Public Hearing Room located on the first floor of the DEP Headquarters building, 401 East State Street in Trenton.

The Natural Capital Project, the first of its kind in the nation, was designed to estimate the economic value of New Jersey's natural capital-its ecosystems. In our report we summarize the results of a two-year study designed to understand the worth of our natural resources, providing a useful tool for policymaking, land use planning, and development of regulations. This research was conducted by DEP, together with researchers from the University of Vermont.

Closely related to this project is the completion of the 2002 Land Use/Land Cover data update. This data set is the third in a series of land use/land cover layers this agency first began producing in 1986.

Like the natural capital information, this data also informs policymaking, land use planning and development of regulations. The detailed mapping of New Jersey's natural capital would not have been possible without such land use-land cover data.

During this meeting, staff from the DEP will provide an overview of both projects and their relationship. Dr. Robert Costanza, Director, Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, University of Vermont will also be participating in the natural capital briefing.

I hope you can join us on the 16th. Due to seating limitations, this initial briefing is by invitation only, so please RSVP by responding to this e-mail. Thank you.

Marybeth P. Brenner

Director, Office of Constituent Relations and Customer Service

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