

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Steve Levy  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 8, 2008

Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay and  
Members of the Suffolk County Legislature  
William H. Rogers Legislative Building  
725 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Smithtown, New York 11787

**RE: Resolution 533-2008**

Dear Presiding Officer Lindsay and Members of the Legislature:

I am returning herein **Resolution No. 533-2008, Authorizing Participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses** vetoed in its entirety.

This Resolution directs the Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and to take the appropriate steps to have Suffolk County's golf courses designated as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries.

I am returning this resolution vetoed as it may put additional pressures on the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation without providing any real or significant benefit to Suffolk County or its residents.

Although well intentioned, it is better to work out a voluntary program. It is unwise and imprudent to approve any legislation that could potentially make Suffolk County beholden to the standards of an outside entity (in this case, Audubon International). Further, these standards can change at any time without notice to the County.

Additionally, the use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other potentially toxic chemicals by the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation is already restricted through Resolution No. 868-1997. Resolution No. 533-2008 would merely add an unnecessary layer of oversight on issues previously—and internally—addressed by the County.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Legislature sustain my veto of this resolution.

Sincerely,

Steve Levy

County Executive of Suffolk County

SL:rm

cc: All Suffolk County Legislators  
Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature  
Christine Malafi, Esq., Suffolk County Attorney  
Lynne A. Bizzarro, Esq., Chief Deputy County Attorney  
James A. Morgo, Chief Deputy County Executive  
Frederick B. Pollert, Deputy County Executive for Finance and Management  
Jeffrey W. Szabo, Deputy County Executive and Chief of Staff  
Ben Zwirn, Deputy County Executive  
Connie Corso, Budget Director  
Dan Aug, Director of Communications  
Mark Smith, Deputy Director of Communications

Intro. Res. 1533 Res. No. 533

June 24, 2008

**Motion:**

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro  
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloría-Fisher, Barraga,  
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

**Co-Sponsors:**

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro  
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloría-Fisher, Barraga,  
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

**Second:**

Romaine, Schneiderman, Browning, Beedenbender, Losquadro  
 Eddington, Montano, Alden, Lindsay, Viloría-Fisher, Barraga,  
 Kennedy, Nowick, Horsley, Stern, D'Amaro, Cooper

LD	Legislator	Yes	No	Abs	NP	R	
1	Edward P. ROMAINE	↓					
2	Jay H. SCHNEIDERMAN						
3	Kate M. BROWNING						
4	Brian BEEDENBENDER						
6	Daniel P. LOSQUADRO						
7	Jack EDDINGTON						
9	Ricardo MONTANO						
10	Cameron ALDEN						
11	Thomas F. BARRAGA						
12	John M. KENNEDY, JR.						
13	Lynne C. NOWICK						
14	Wayne R. HORSLEY						
16	Steven H. STERN						
17	Lou D'AMARO						
18	Jon COOPER						
15							
5	Vivian VILORIA-FISHER, D.P.O.						
8	William J. LINDSAY, P.O.						
	Totals	17					

MOTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve
___ Table: _____
___ Send To Committee
___ Table Subject To Call
___ Lay On The Table
___ Discharge
___ Take Out of Order
___ Reconsider
___ Waive Rule ___
___ Override Veto
___ Close
___ Recess
APPROVED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAILED ___
No Motion ___ No Second ___

RESOLUTION DECLARED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED
___ NOT ADOPTED

*Tim Laube*

Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature

Roll Call \_\_\_ Voice Vote

**RESOLUTION NO. 533 -2008, AUTHORIZING  
PARTICIPATION IN THE AUDUBON COOPERATIVE  
SANCTUARY PROGRAM FOR GOLF COURSES**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk operates four golf courses; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk has attempted to operate these golf courses in an environmentally sound manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk has established a pest control policy to phase out the use of pesticides by the County for many pest control purposes in favor of non-chemical pest control strategies; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 868-1997 authorized the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to develop an Organic Parks Maintenance Plan for all County parklands, including golf courses, which would substantially reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other toxic chemicals in the routine maintenance of said parklands and golf courses; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk wishes to take additional steps to enhance the natural areas and wildlife habitats located at its golf courses while increasing water conservation and reducing chemical use; and

**WHEREAS**, Audubon International administers the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Golf Courses; and

**WHEREAS**, municipally operated golf courses are eligible to participate in this program; and

**WHEREAS**, under this program Audubon provides the interested golf course with an ACSP Certification Handbook to guide the certification efforts and documentation. The golf course begins by completing a Site Assessment and Environmental Plan form from the handbook. This information helps golf course personnel to take stock of current environmental management practices and plan improvements. Throughout the process, Audubon staff provide the golf course with valuable guidance as well as educational information to help with environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, and water quality management at golf courses. The golf course submits the completed evaluation form to Audubon International for review; and

**WHEREAS**, based on this assessment, Audubon provides a site specific report and works with the owner of the golf course to implement a Site Assessment and Environmental Plan at the course; and

**WHEREAS**, upon meeting standards in wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, water quality management, and outreach and education, a golf course is designated as a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary; now, therefore be it

**1<sup>st</sup>**           **RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses and to take all steps necessary under that program to have the County's golf courses at Timber Point, West Sayville, Indian Island, and Bergen Point, designated as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries; and be it further

**2<sup>nd</sup>**           **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED:   **JUN 24 2008**

APPROVED BY:

**VETOED**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: 7-8-08