WHEREAS, The property at number 2 and number 10 Ridge Road, Block 80.03 Lots 10 and 21 consists of 12 densely forested acres on a steep slope; and

WHEREAS, It was the former site of Bowood, the 48-acre estate of L. F. Loree Dean, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad 1904; and

WHEREAS, The land provides important health and safety benefits to the Community; and

WHEREAS, Sixty car accidents have occurred in the last five years below its promontory on Mount Pleasant Avenue which is steep and curvaceous; and

WHEREAS, the forest prevents millions of gallons of water from cascading down steep Mount Pleasant Ave or becoming dangerous ice on the road in the winter; and

WHEREAS, It is important habitat for bird and animal species including the endangered Indiana bat;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club requests that the Township of West Orange acquire the former Bowood property for the asking price of $1.49 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it should be preserved as passive undeveloped open space, for the purpose of retaining storm water and for climate change remediation.

Adopted by the New Jersey Chapter Executive Committee: August 10, 2019