

Media Contact:  
Jonathan Jaffe  
908-789-0700  
[jonathan@jaffecom.com](mailto:jonathan@jaffecom.com)

---

## **Assemblyman John F. McKeon Receives the Robert Pellet Leadership Award**

**WEST ORANGE, NJ – June 6, 2017** – The New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC) has awarded its “Robert Pellet Leadership Award” to Assemblyman John F. McKeon for his ongoing efforts to promote anti-litter initiatives in New Jersey.

McKeon, a former West Orange mayor who serves as the vice-chair of the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee, accepted the award at the 14<sup>th</sup>-annual NJCCC conference, held this year in West Orange.

McKeon said it was an honor to receive an award named after Pellet, who died Jan. 4, 2016. Pellet led the NJCCC at its infancy in the 1980s and through his “leadership, commitment and tenacity” helped the council succeed, the assemblyman said.

The Robert Pellet Leadership Award is the most prestigious award of the NJCCC, awarded only seven times in its history, and presented to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in advancing New Jersey Clean Communities and fostering a cleanliness ethic throughout the state.

McKeon was presented the award by last year’s winner, Paul Bontempo of MBI/GluckShaw, who is the longtime treasurer of the NJCCC. “Assemblyman McKeon has demonstrated a strong commitment to the program and its goals dating back to the time when he served as mayor of West Orange,” Bontempo said. “His commitment continues to this day.”

In accepting his award, McKeon said the Earth is facing many challenges because of population growth. He noted, in 1820, there were one billion people on the planet. Today, there are seven billion.

“Feeding the Earth and providing clean water are incredible challenges,” McKeon said, noting that state lawmakers in New Jersey recognize the importance of preservation of natural resources, such as with the Highlands and the Pinelands.

end