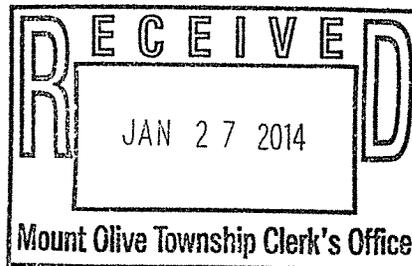




(C)
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
43 SCHOOLEY'S MTN. ROAD
LONG VALLEY, NJ 07853

done
1/28/14
sg
} CC: Adm.

Governor Chris Christie
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08325



January 23, 2014

Dear Governor Christie,

In a Township Meeting, held on January 20, 2014, the Washington Township Committee approved Resolution R-25-14 in support of a water tax to fund the loss of land equity for property owners in the Highlands Region. Attached please find a copy of the Resolution for your records. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Kathy Froetscher
Clerk's Office
Washington Township, Morris County

Cc: Senator Stephen M. Sweeney
Assemblyman Vincent Prieto
Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick
Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Township of Mahwah
Borough of Oakland
Alexandria Township
Township of Bethlehem
Borough of Bloomsbury
Borough of Califon
Township of Clinton
Town of Clinton
Borough of Glen Gardner
Hampton Borough
Borough of High Bridge
Holland Township
Lebanon Township
Borough of Lebanon
Borough of Milford
Township of Tewsbury
Township of Union
Town of Boonton
Township of Boonton
Borough of Butler
Borough of Chester
Chester Township
Township of Denville
Town of Dover
Hanover Township

Harding Township
Township of Jefferson
Borough of Kinnelon
Borough of Mendham
Mendham Township
Byram Township
Franklin Borough
Township of Green
Borough of Hamburg
Hardyston Township
Borough of Hopatcong
Borough of Ogdensburg
Sparta Township
Borough of Stanhope
Vernon Township
Allamuchy Township
Borough of Alpha
Town of Belvidere
Franklin Township
Frelinghuysen Township
Township of Greenwich
Town of Hackettstown
Township of Harmony
Hope Township
Independence Township
Liberty Township
Township of Lopatcong
Township of Mansfield
Township of Oxford
Town of Phillipsburg
Borough of Washington
Township of Washington
Township of White
Mine Hill Township
Township of Montville
Township of Morris
Borough of Morris Plains
The Town of Morristown
Borough of Mountain Lakes
Borough of Mount Arlington
Mount Olive Township
Netcong Borough
Parsippany – Troy Hills Township
Pequannock Township
Township of Randolph
Borough of Riverdale
Borough of Rockaway
Rockaway Township
Township of Roxbury
Borough of Victory Gardens
Washington Township
Borough of Wharton
Borough of Bloomingdale
Borough of Pompton Lakes
Borough of Ringwood
Borough of Wanaque
Township of West Milford
Bedminster Township
Bernards Township
Borough of Bernardsville
Borough of Far Hills
Borough of Peapack Gladstone

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

No. R-25-14

Date of Adoption: January 20, 2014

Title or Subject: SUPPORT OF A WATER TAX TO FUND THE LOSS OF LAND EQUITY FOR PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE HIGHLANDS REGION

WHEREAS, The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act was passed by both houses of the New Jersey Legislature and signed into law on August 10, 2004 by Governor James McGreevy; and

WHEREAS, The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act designated areas to be in the "Preservation" or "Planning" areas; and

WHEREAS, the Act reads, "The Legislature finds and declares that the national Highlands Region is an area that extends from northwestern Connecticut across the lower Hudson River Valley and northern New Jersey into east Central Pennsylvania; that the national Highlands Region has been recognized as a landscape of special significance by the United States Forest Service; that the New Jersey portion of the national Highlands Region is nearly 800,000 acres, or about 1,250 miles, covering portions of 88 municipalities in seven counties; and

WHEREAS, the Act additionally reads, "The Legislature further finds and declares that the New Jersey Highlands is an essential source of drinking water, providing clean and plentiful drinking water for one-half of the State's population, including communities beyond the New Jersey Highlands, from only 13 percent of the State's land area"; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington, County of Morris is located in both the Preservation and Planning Areas; and

WHEREAS, the value and equity of the land has decreased dramatically for those property owners in the Township and Highlands Act region; and

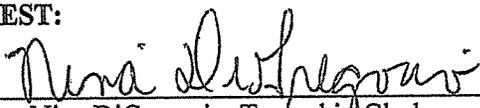
WHEREAS, the Township also is restricted in bringing economic opportunity, jobs and growth forcing existing taxpayers to pay higher amounts due to lack of growth and smart development ; and

WHEREAS, areas located outside of the "Highlands Area" are using Highlands resources without paying or compensating those affected communities.

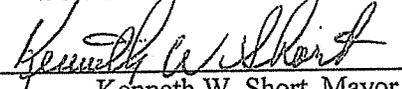
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Washington, County of Morris, strongly urges the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly to craft a bill which would charge those who use Highlands Area water to compensate those communities impacted by the Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Township Committee of Township of Washington, County of Morris, forward this resolution to every municipality located within the territory of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Region.

ATTEST:


Nina DiGregorio, Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON


Kenneth W. Short, Mayor

I, Nina DiGregorio, Township Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Township Committee held on January 20, 2014.


Nina DiGregorio, Township Clerk

1-23-2014
Date