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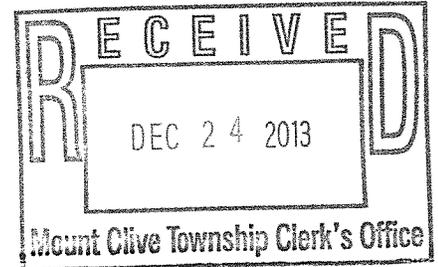
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cc: Admin



Township of Pohatcong

50 Municipal Drive
Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865
Phone 908/454-6121

December 18, 2013



Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Enclosed is a certified copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township of Pohatcong urging our Legislature to implement a water tax to fund the loss of land equity for property owners in the Highlands Region.

We hope you will join in support of this measure to put pressure on the Legislature to pass such a measure. While this tax will not solve this disastrous legislation; it may make it better than what it is.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James R. Kern III
Mayor

cc: Governor Chris Christie
Senator Stephen Sweeney
Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Assemblyman Vincent Prieto
Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick
Chairman Jim Rilee, New Jersey Highlands Council
All 88 Municipalities in the Highlands Region

RESOLUTION

**OF THE TOWNSHIP OF POHATCONG, WARREN COUNTY
URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO
IMPLEMENT A WATER USAGE TAX**

WHEREAS, The Highlands Water and Protection 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 and Protection 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 Pohatcong, County of Warren 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:

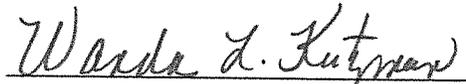
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Pohatcong, County of Warren, strongly urge the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly to craft a bill which would charge those who use Highlands Area water to compensate those communities impacted by the Act,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Mayor and Council of Township of Pohatcong, County of Warren, will forward this resolution to every municipality located within the territory of the Highlands Water and Protection Act Region.

Certification:

I, Wanda L. Kutzman, Township Clerk of the Township of Pohatcong, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Pohatcong at their regular meeting held on December 17, 2013.

WITNESS, my hand and seal of the Township of Pohatcong on this 17th day of December, 2013.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wanda L. Kutzman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Wanda L. Kutzman
Township Clerk