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TOWNSHIP OF LIBERTY

RECEIVED
FEB 12 2014
Mount Olive Township Clerk's Office

Diane M Pflugfelder RMC/MMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

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11 February 2014

Dear Mayors and Committeepersons,

Enclosed is a certified copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township of Liberty 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.

With regards,

Diane M Pflugfelder

Diane M Pflugfelder, RMC/MMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

Enc.

cc: Governor Chris Christie
Senator Stephen Sweeney
Senator Thomas H Kean, Jr
Senator Robert Menendez
Senator Jeffrey S Chiesa
Senator Steven V Oroho
Congressperson E Scott Garrett
Congressperson Leonard Lance
Assemblyperson Parker Space
Assemblyperson Alison Littell McHose
Chairperson Jim Rilee, New Jersey Highlands Council
All 88 Municipalities within the Highlands Region

Resolution #2014.018
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 10 August 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 natural 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 Liberty, 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's resources without paying or compensating those affected communities:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, 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 this Act.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, Warren County, shall forward this Resolution to every municipality located within the territory of the Highlands Water and Protection Act Region.

Vote: aye - Karcher
aye - Petersen
aye - Cummins
absent - Grover
aye - Inscho

I, Diane M Pflugfelder, R.M.C/M.M.C, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the governing body at a meeting held on 6 February 2014.

Diane M Pflugfelder

Diane M Pflugfelder, R.M.C/M.M.C.
Municipal Clerk