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3/14/14 } cc: Admin

**Borough of Franklin
County of Sussex
Resolution #2014-19**

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 Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex is located in the Planning Area; and

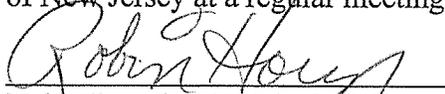
WHEREAS, the Highlands Act is restrictive to economic opportunity, jobs and growth, forcing existing taxpayers to pay higher amounts due to lack of growth and smart development; and

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 Council of the Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex, 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 Council of the Borough of Franklin, Sussex County, shall forward this Resolution to every municipality located within the territory of the Highlands Water and Protection Act Region.

CERTIFICATION: I, Robin Hough, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Franklin, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey at a regular meeting of said Governing Body held on March 11, 2014.


Robin Hough, Municipal Clerk