

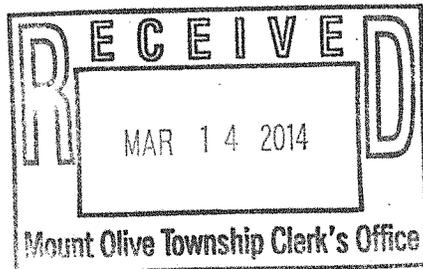
TEL: (908) 735-8027 Ext. 10
FAX: (908) 735-0591

Municipal Building
Perryville Rd. & Race St.

TOWNSHIP OF UNION
Hunterdon County, State of New Jersey
140 Perryville Road
Hampton, New Jersey 08827

done
3/14/14
cc: Admin
Jg

March 12, 2014



Dear Mayor and Council Members

Enclosed is a certified copy of Resolution #2014-44 "Support of a Water Tax to Fund the Loss of Land Equity for Property Owners in the Highlands Region", adopted by the Township of Union, Hunterdon County at their March 5, 2014 Township Committee Meeting.

Sincerely,

Ella M. Ruta, RMC
Union Township Clerk

Cc: Senator Michael J. Doherty
Assemblyman John Dimaio
Assemblyman Erik C. Peterson
Senator Stephen Sweeney
Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Chairman Jim Rilee, New Jersey Highlands Council
The 88 Municipalities in the Highlands Region

**UNION TOWNSHIP
HUNTERDON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Resolution #2014-44

**Support of a Water Tax to Fund the loss of Land Equity for Property Owners in the
Highlands Region**

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 Union, County of Hunterdon is located in both the Preservation and Planning Areas; and

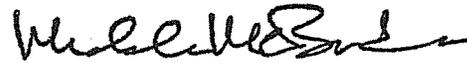
WHEREAS, the value and equity of the land has decreased dramatically for those property owners in the Township and Highlands Act region; and

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:

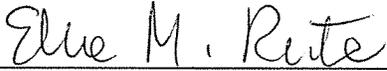
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, strongly urge the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly to craft a bill which would charge those who use Highlands Area water to compensate those communities impacted by the Act,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, will forward this resolution to every municipality located within the territory of the Highlands Water and Protective Act Region.



Michele McBride, Mayor

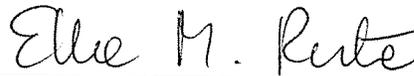
ATTEST:



Ella M. Ruta, RMC
Municipal Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, 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 March 5, 2014.



Ella M. Ruta, RMC
Municipal Clerk