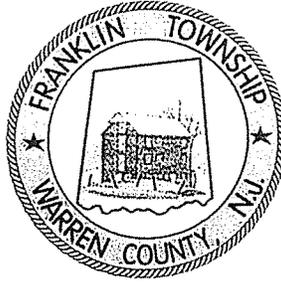


(C)
TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN

copy
4/10/14
cc: Admin

COUNTY OF WARREN



STATE OF NEW JERSEY



April 10, 2014

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Enclosed is a certified copy of a Resolution adopted by Franklin Township, Warren County, NJ at their April 7th, 2014 Township Committee Meeting, 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 us in the 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 already is.

Sincerely,


Denise L. Becton, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

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

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #2014-43

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

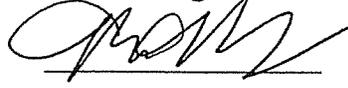
WHEREAS, the value and equity of the land has decreased dramatically for those property owners in the Township and Highlands Act region; and

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 Franklin, 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 Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, will forward this resolution to every municipality located within the territory of the Highlands Water and Protective Act Region.



Bonnie Butler, Mayor

ATTEST:



Denise L. Becton, RMC
Municipal Clerk

On motion by Jeff DeAngelis and seconded by Mike Toretta the aforementioned **Resolution 2014-43** be adopted as read.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstain	
Bonnie Butler	X			
Joe Flynn	X			
Jeff DeAngelis	X			
Michael Toretta	X			
Jacob Pence	X			
		(5) Yes (0) No (0) Absent		Motion carried

CERTIFICATION

I, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, 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 April 7, 2014.



Denise L. Becton, RMC
Municipal Clerk