

(C) *Director: Admin*

# MORRIS COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Director  
Thomas J. Mastrangelo

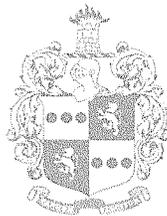
County Counsel  
Daniel W. O'Mullan

Deputy Director  
David Scapicchio

County Administrator  
John Bonanni

Douglas R. Cabana  
John Cesaro  
Ann F. Grossi  
John Krickus  
Hank Lyon

Clerk of the Board  
Diane M. Ketchum



AUG 19 2013

August 15, 2013

Ms. Lisa Lashway, Municipal Clerk  
Township of Mount Olive  
204 Flanders-Drakestown Road  
Budd Lake, New Jersey 07828

Dear Ms. Lashway:

For your information, the attached resolution was adopted by the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders at its August 14, 2013 Public Meeting.

The Freeholder Board supports Assembly Bill A-3541 that would exempt artificial turf field construction by local governments from the "Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act."

Sincerely,

Diane M. Ketchum  
Clerk of the Board

Enclosure

**BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Resolution No. 63

**Adopted:** August 14, 2013

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, N.J.S.A.13:20-1 et seq., (the Act) was signed into law on August 10, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Act divides the Highlands Region into two separate areas identified as the Preservation area and the Planning area; and

WHEREAS, 39% of the entire area of Morris County is within the Preservation Area where development of any kind is severely restricted; and there are municipalities that are almost entirely within the Preservation Area, such as the Borough of Kinnelon with almost 98% of the municipality in the Preservation Area; and

WHEREAS, Section 30 (C.13:20-28) of the Act, provides numerous exemptions from the provisions of the Act and NJDEP Highlands regulations to alleviate hardship and provide essential facilities; and

WHEREAS, the list of exemptions includes any improvements to an existing public or private school that would allow the construction of recreational facilities; however, this exemption does not include county or municipal facilities; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, such as the Borough of Kinnelon, that are entirely or almost entirely within the Preservation Area, have no or little opportunities for constructing and expanding recreational facilities, such as athletic fields, to meet existing and future demands; and

WHEREAS; the County of Morris and its municipalities are recognized as leaders in the protection of lands for active and passive recreational purposes and resource protection having preserved over 21,000 acres to date; and

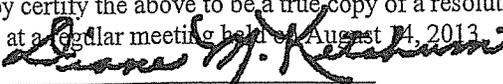
WHEREAS, the Act's restrictions in the Preservation Area make it nearly impossible for municipalities to provide for the active recreational needs of its residents that improve health and enhance the community's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill A3541 that would provide an exemption for the construction by a local government of synthetic turf fields that would allow for on-site water recharge was passed by the General Assembly and received in the Senate on June 24, 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Morris in the State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The County of Morris urges the Senate to pass Assembly Bill A3541 for a vote at its next voting session and to pass A3541 in its current form.
2. Copies of this resolution are to be sent to the Honorable Governor of the State of New Jersey, Chris Christie, all our local Morris County Legislators, the President of the Senate, the Chairman of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, and the Boards of Chosen Freeholders of the seven counties in the Highlands Region and all Morris County municipalities in the Preservation Area, urging them to adopt similar resolutions.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Morris at a regular meeting held on August 14, 2013.

  
Diane M. Ketchum, Clerk of the Board