

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTINUED ENJOYMENT OF THE STATE'S WATERS
FOR DRINKING WATER AND RECREATION WITHOUT HARM TO AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, [municipality] has approximately [population number] residents, most of whom receive drinking water from underground aquifers; and

WHEREAS, [municipality] contains a [X miles of] streams and rivers, including [significant water feature name(s)] and other waters which may be used for recreation, drinking water, agriculture, fish and wildlife habitat, and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, significant investments have been made for the acquisition of land for the public use and enjoyment, especially land with surface waters, through use of public funds by [municipality] and governmental and non-governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, clean water from streams, rivers, lakes, and other surface waters contribute to the municipality's scenic and aesthetic qualities, real estate and home values, and economic opportunities from recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the loss of good water quality in streams, rivers, lakes, and other surface waters can result in a loss of the municipality's scenic and aesthetic qualities, real estate and home values, and economic opportunities from recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, recreational uses have not been incorporated by the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection into assessments for developing anti-degradation safeguards for discharges to surface waters; and

WHEREAS, the waters in streams and rivers are held in the public trust and recreation may occur on those waters, but the land underlying them may be owned privately or publicly, and trespass on private lands is prohibited; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is an important activity, and no additional restriction or undue burden should be placed on agriculture with regard to water withdrawals, which are already regulated by the Water Supply Management Act, and

WHEREAS, municipal residents rely on underground aquifers as their drinking water source; and

WHEREAS, underground aquifers can include porous rock formations, vulnerable to the mixing of contaminated surface and ground waters, such as carbonate bedrock; and

WHEREAS the presence of pollutants in a surface water or groundwater may inadvertently put drinking water aquifers at risk; and

WHEREAS, the additional costs associated with the treatment of degraded drinking water supplies can be a burden to homeowners, industry, and drinking water suppliers; and

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that [municipality] encourages:

- 1) The Department of Environmental Protection to develop methods for identifying waters already utilized for recreational purposes to ensure water quality in these areas are not degraded by new discharges; and
- 2) The Department of Environmental Protection to promote the protection of drinking water aquifers, including waters in carbonate rock areas; and
- 3) The Department of Environmental Protection to establish anti-degradation standards for small public water supply systems and waters in the Highlands Region to protect drinking water quality; and
- 4) The Department of Environmental Protection to preserve and enhance water quality by protecting headwater streams from disturbances; and
- 5) That any actions the Department of Environmental Protection may take in response to this resolution, be done so in consultation with the stakeholders, including municipalities; and
- 6) That the state should provide adequate resources to ensure the public's access to state lands and waters.

RECORD OF VOTE

NUMBER OF VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT _____

AYES _____ NAYS _____ ABSTENTIONS _____

Attested by:

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____