

RESOLUTION

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

in

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO PETITION THE HIGHLANDS COUNCIL
FOR PLAN CONFORMANCE**

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act), N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 *et seq.*, finds and declares that protection of the New Jersey Highlands is an issue of State level importance because of its vital link to the future of the State's drinking water supplies and other key natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act creates a coordinated land use planning system requiring the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council) to prepare and adopt a Regional Master Plan for the Highlands Region and requiring that within nine to 15 months after September 8, 2008, each county and municipality located wholly or partially in the Preservation Area must submit a Petition for Plan Conformance to the Highlands Council for that portion of its jurisdiction lying within the Preservation Area; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act specifies that conformance with the Regional Master Plan (Plan Conformance) requires revisions to municipal and county master plans and development regulations as applicable to the development and use of land to align them with the goals, requirements, and provisions of the Regional Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council's Plan Conformance Guidelines require that for jurisdictions with any lands in the Preservation Area, a Notice of Intent to conform to the Regional Master Plan must be submitted to the Highlands Council as soon as practicable, but not later than February 1, 2009 and that for any lands in the Planning Area, a Notice of Intent may be submitted at any time; and


WHEREAS, the Township of Independence lies within the Highlands Region as defined by the Highlands Act; and

WHEREAS, the Independence Township Committee believes that it is in the best interest of the Independence Township to indicate an intent to conform to the Regional Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Independence Committee hereby provides the Highlands Council with this Notice of Intent to petition the Highlands Council for Plan Conformance for all lands lying within the Preservation Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Notice of Intent provides notice to the Highlands Council that the Township Committee has set December 8, 2009 as the target date for submission of a Petition for Plan Conformance.

Date: December 15, 2008



Deborah Hrebenak, Clerk/Administrator