

Township of West Milford

Passaic County, New Jersey

~ Resolution 2017 - 378 ~

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY URGING SENATOR JOSEPH PENNACCHIO, SENATOR STEVEN V. OROHO AND SENATOR ANTHONY R. BUCCO TO SPONSOR LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A FUND FOR THE DEDICATION OF ANNUAL FUNDING FOR GREENWOOD LAKE WHICH FUNDING WOULD BE DERIVED FROM POWER VESSEL OPERATOR LICENSE FEES

WHEREAS, Senators Pennacchio, Oroho and Bucco sponsored Senate Bill 2389 in the 2016 and 2017 Senate; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2017 the members of the Senate Environment Committee unanimously voted in favor of this legislation; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2017 the State Senate, with 37 affirmative votes and no votes in opposition, adopted S-2389 in the New Jersey State Senate; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2017, S-2389 was received by the State Assembly and referred to the Assembly Environmental and Solid Waste Committee; and

WHEREAS, S-2389 would establish the "Lake Hopatcong Fund" and dedicate to the fund \$500,000 annually from license fees required to operate power boats on non-tidal waters. The moneys would be used by the Lake Hopatcong Commission for the protection, preservation, restoration, maintenance, management and enhancement of the lake pursuant to P.L.2000, c.175 (C.58:4B-1 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the fees being dedicated to the Lake Hopatcong Commission are derived from the 48-month power vessel operator's license that is required in accordance with P.L. 1995, c.401; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) administers the issuance of the aforementioned operator licenses and collects the funds for same; and

WHEREAS, S-2389 would legislate that the remaining revenue collected by the NJMVC shall be deposited into the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, Greenwood Lake is located in West Milford, Passaic County, New Jersey and Orange County, New York; and

WHEREAS, Greenwood Lake is one of the largest lakes in the New Jersey Highlands Preservation Area and is the headwaters of the Wanaque River which drains to the Monksville and Wanaque Reservoirs and which supply drinking water to approximately 3 million New Jersey residents and thousands of businesses; and

WHEREAS, maintenance of water quality within Greenwood Lake is critical to the health of these public water supplies; and

WHEREAS, each sponsor of S-2389 has identified the compelling need for dedicated funding for the protection, preservation, restoration, maintenance, management and enhancement of critical lakes each vocalizing his in-depth understanding of the issues; and

WHEREAS, some of the benefits they have identified can be recognized in the statements made by the sponsors of S-2389 namely:

"Our economy will suffer if we don't find a stable way to pay for annual weed harvesting and Stormwater management. We shouldn't have to scramble every year to find the money we need

to keep boaters and swimmers safe. I believe that our bill is a fiscally-responsible solution to this problem.” Sen. Anthony R. Bucco

“We fought hard to ensure the Fiscal Year 2018 budget included funding to protect Lake Hopatcong, but a one-time payment is not enough. The lake has become overrun with invasive weeds and the problem seems to get worse every year. Setting up a permanent, dedicated funding source for preservation and maintenance is the best way to ensure future generations can enjoy this treasured natural resource.” Sen. Steven V. Oroho

“This is not just a local issue. Tourists come from all over the country to visit Lake Hopatcong. This is a tried and true economic resource for the entire region and it deserves our support. The cost of maintaining the lake shouldn’t fall on the backs of local residents and business owners alone. Our bill will ensure everyone can enjoy the lake for years to come.” Sen. Joseph Pennacchio

and:

WHEREAS, while Lake Hopatcong is located in the Borough of Hopatcong, Morris County primarily in the Highlands Protection Area, Greenwood Lake is partially located in West Milford, Passaic County which is located entirely in the Highlands Preservation Area which designation indicates the critical sensitivity of this body of water; and

WHEREAS, every Senator who voted in favor of S-2389 on December 7, 2017 is to be commended for his or her vote and by using that vote to disclose their understanding of the value of these public lakes to the State of New Jersey and the challenges that come with protecting, preserving and maintaining these valuable resources; and

WHEREAS, the residents of West Milford along with the over 3 million residents and thousands of businesses whose drinking water is directly affected by the quality of the water in Greenwood Lake appreciate and recognize that the State Senate is cognizant of the compelling need to provide funding to protect and maintain our lakes; and

WHEREAS, the standards that are applied to understanding the needs of the Lake Hopatcong Commission are the minimal standards that should be applied to the Commissioners who daily protect the waters of Greenwood Lake and the residual effect these efforts have on a municipality located entirely in the New Jersey Highlands Preservation Area; and

WHEREAS, the residents of West Milford, the users of Greenwood Lake and the tourists who visit Greenwood Lake deserve equity and comparable consideration to those residents, users and tourists of Lake Hopatcong.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of West Milford, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Mayor and Township Council urge the sponsors of S-2389 to establish a “Greenwood Lake Fund” as a non-lapsing, revolving fund in the Department of the Treasury.
2. The Fund shall be administered by the Greenwood Lake Commission.
3. The Fund shall be credited with monies received and dedicated to the Fund by virtue of the fees collected by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission for power vessel operator licenses.

Adopted: December 20, 2017

Adopted this 20th day of December, 2017
and certified as a true copy of an original.

Antoinette Battaglia, Township Clerk