

# Township of West Milford

Passaic County, New Jersey

## ~ Resolution 2019 – 224 ~

### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN FAVOR OF CONTINUED IN-LIEU-OF TAX PAYMENTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO ENCOURAGE OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION WHICH IS CRITICAL TO NEW JERSEY'S WATER SUPPLY

**WHEREAS**, in 1961, the Green Acres Program was created with the mission “to achieve, in partnership with others, a system of interconnected open spaces, whose protection will preserve and enhance New Jersey's natural environment and its historic, scenic, and recreational resources for public use and enjoyment”; and

**WHEREAS**, with the support and participation of public and private partners, the Green Acres Programs has protected over a half million acres of open space and has provided hundreds of outdoor recreation facilities throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of New Jersey's Open Space program, including Green Acres is threatened by the loss of in-lieu-of tax payments, which are made by the State to municipalities in order to mitigate the impact of the loss of property tax revenues because of the State's purchase of open space; and

**WHEREAS**, cuts in funding for this program threaten vital open space and farmland acquisition by discouraging continued and expanded participation by localities due to potential losses in urgently needed Property Tax Revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, this program represents less than one-half percent of the State's \$37 billion FY 19 annual budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the program is presently funded in an uneven and unfair manner among localities, further discouraging widespread participation; and

**WHEREAS**, the in-lieu-of tax payment program is an inexpensive and efficient way to insure adequate, clean water supplies to the people of the State which is imperative to our quality of life.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township of West Milford, wishes that it be known that we strongly support the goals of the Payment In-Lieu of Taxes Program for Open Space; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey State Legislature, the Commissioner of Department of Environment Protection and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Adopted: August 14, 2019

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019  
and certified as a true copy of an original.

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Diane Curcio, Acting Township Clerk