

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DEERFIELD

RESOLUTION 11-66

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OPEN SPACE PILOT FUNDING

WHEREAS, the preservation of Open Space benefits all New Jersey citizens and future generations, and

WHEREAS, the preservation of Open Space provides valuable habitats for wildlife and helps protect and sustain the drinking water supply for millions of people, and,

WHEREAS, the municipalities that are the locations for major amounts of preserved Open Spaces tend to be less populous and larger in land area than the average New Jersey municipality with fewer tax ratables yet they too will need to serve their citizens and those who come to their areas to enjoy the Open Spaces, and do so within the constraints of the new 2% levy cap, and,

WHEREAS, hosting large amounts of Open Space for the benefit of all New Jersey residents and municipalities, imposes costs on the citizens of the host municipality and denies them the economic and budgetary benefits of a ratable base that is sufficient to sustain these municipalities as property taxes remain the main revenue source for New Jersey municipalities, and,

WHEREAS, in recognition of these facts, the State of New Jersey has pledged to provide host municipalities with Payments In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOTs), which serve two crucial public policy purposes -- they provide property tax relief and promote environmental protection, and,

WHEREAS, in recognition of those dual benefits, and of the lost opportunities for revenues and the costs imposed on the host municipalities, a long line of Governors, Legislatures and Commissioners of Environmental Protection have seen the fairness of consistently making the promised Payments In Lieu of Taxes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Upper Deerfield in the County of Cumberland, ask the Governor, Legislature and Department of Environmental Protection to continue to fund the PILOT program for these communities, develop a fairer formula for this funding and to establish a permanent source of revenue to permanently fund these PILOTs for lands that are permanently protected for all the people of New Jersey and future generations; and

Moved By: Scott Smith

Seconded By: Bruce Peterson

VOTING

James P. Crilley
John L. Daddario
John T. O'Neill, Sr.
Bruce T. Peterson
Scott Smith

<u>In Favor</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
X			
X			
X			
X			
X			

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Upper Deerfield, in the County of Cumberland, at a meeting thereof held February 3, 2011

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk