

Township of West Milford

Passaic County, New Jersey

~ Resolution 2021 – 098 ~

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY OPPOSING NEW JERSEY STATE ASSEMBLY BILL A4843 AS WRITTEN

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Assembly has introduced Bill A4843, which would require local governments to write Forest Stewardship Plans for all forests in their ownership that had been acquired for conservation or recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Stewardship Plans would need to be researched, developed and submitted by a trained Forester and the Township at the Township's cost; and

WHEREAS, the Township of West Milford is already under financial pressure due to the Highlands Act; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill A4843 amounts to an unfunded mandate; and

WHEREAS, the financial pressure caused by this unfunded mandate would force the Township to engage heavily in the logging industry and exposing our forest ecosystems to invasive plant and insect species and risking degradation of our soil and water quality; and

WHEREAS, logging would compromise the recreational experiences in our forests, which we rely on for ecotourism; and

WHEREAS, tourists of West Milford can easily opt to visit neighboring parks across the NY State line, where aggressive logging is not practiced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of West Milford, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey hereby opposes this bill, as it is written, and further opposes the imposition of any unfunded mandate, especially one such as A4843, which would adversely affect the fiscal and environmental health of the Township of West Milford.

Adopted: March 3, 2021

Adopted this 3rd day of March, 2021
and certified as a true copy of an original.

William Senande, Township Clerk