



**TOWNSHIP OF DOWNE
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jordan, Sr., L.	X			
Byrne, S.				X
Cook, D.			X	
Bart, E.	X			
Campbell, R.	X			

Resolution Number: R-93-2016 Dated: August 1, 2016 Offered By: BART Seconded By: JORDAN
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**RESOLUTION OF THE DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE DECLARING A FISCAL
EMERGENCY CAUSED BY THE FAILURE TO FUND PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR
A COMMUNITY WHICH IS OVER 85% PRESERVED**

WHEREAS, the Downe Township Committee is charged with managing the fiscal responsibilities of Downe Township, a small Township, situate in rural Southern New Jersey, in Cumberland County; and,

WHEREAS, Downe Township is unique in the State of New Jersey in its bayshore habitats and historic and cultural attributes; and,

WHEREAS, Downe Township is approximately 85% preserved as of this date such that both tax ratable and redevelopment potentials are significantly curtailed; and,

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has declined to reinstate PILOT funding; and,

WHEREAS, Downe Township continues to have financial responsibilities attendant to Municipalities in the State of New Jersey including by way of example and not limitation, education,

roads, assistance to low income families, animal control, waste disposal related to both residents and large areas of preserved ground which serves as an attractive touring spot for out of town residents, environmentalists and preservationist; and,

WHEREAS, it is the position of the Township Committee that the continued aggressive purchase of open space land in Downe Township by Blue Acres, Green Acres, National Land Trust, Nature Conservancy and others is pushing Downe Township ever closer to fiscal disaster; and,

WHEREAS, it is the position of the Township Committee that the ratable loss as a result of Hurricane Sandy and the continuing tax exempt status of open space within the community without a PILOT (payment in lieu of tax for open space) Program which is dependable and/or active Stewardship Program facilitating the burdens of the Township will eventually result in Downe Township becoming financial unstable; and,

WHEREAS, it is the position of the Township Committee that by their action or in action, the State of New Jersey has created a fiscal State of Emergency in the Township of Downe, Cumberland County, New Jersey and the Township Committee finds it is incumbent upon the State to assist Downe Township in its financial sustainability and either assist in the remedies or propose and implement alternative solutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Downe, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey that it is the position of the Downe Township Committee that no further tax exempt status should be granted to any entity or agency (private or governmental) within this community for open lands and that all entities that have been granted tax exempt status that do not have

permanent conservation easements on their properties should have their exemptions rescinded; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the position of the Township Committee that the PILOT funding payments should be reinstated in full and permanently funded and that tax exempt properties excluded from the PILOT Program since the 2010 declaration by the Governor should be added back into the PILOT Program.

THIS RESOLUTION was adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Downe on August 1, 2016.

ATTEST:


Nadine Lockley, Acting Clerk


Robert G. Campbell, Mayor

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

The undersigned, Clerk of the Township of Downe, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Downe Township Committee at its Regular Meeting held August 1, 2016.

Date

Nadine Lockley, Acting Clerk