

# **Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex**

## **Resolution #2022-57**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN OPPOSING A PROPOSAL BY THE NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTERS OF THE SIERRA CLUB TO CHANGE THE DESIGNATION OF THE DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA TO THE DELAWARE RIVER NATIONAL PARK AND LENAPE PRESERVE UNTIL A FORMAL PLAN IS PRESENTED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) was established September 1, 1965, one of 10 National Recreation Areas of the National Park Service, currently encompassing nearly 70,000 acres in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and is a protected area in the United States established by an Act of Congress to preserve enhanced recreational opportunities in places with significant natural and scenic resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the DEWA offers recreational opportunities such as hiking, walking, bicycling, fishing, hunting, swimming, camping, canoeing, boating, cross country skiing, bird watching, horseback riding, sightseeing, and special events; cultural resources, infrastructural facilities, national resources, and rare, threatened and endangered species of plants, fish, mammals, reptiles and amphibians; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Franklin Borough enjoy the recreational opportunities as well as cultural and natural resources of this open space and local businesses benefit from the tourism brought by Stokes State Forest, State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish & Wildlife and DEWA bring to the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin is aware of a proposal by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club seeking to change the designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to the Delaware River National Park and Lenape Preserve; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club offers no insight or plan for the change in designation; namely the environmental, economic and agricultural impact to the DEWA and to the residents and local businesses in Sussex County; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club offers no information on possible changes to public lands, namely, Stokes State Forest, High Point State Park and State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish & Wildlife lands as well as acquisition of private property; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club offers no information on the plan to facilitate this change; the implementation of fee collection and location of collection stations; and how funding will be provided for this National Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club offers no explanation on the location, size and parameters of the "Preserve" area, the activities allowed and disallowed; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin opposes any change in designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin firmly opposes the proposal of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club, or any other organization, seeking to change the designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to the Delaware River National Park and Lenape Preserve unless and until a formal plan is presented offering information on the environmental, economic and agricultural impact of this proposed change; sources of funding; the fee structure and the plan for the implementation of fees and collection station locations; a map of the area depicting the location of the Lenape Preserve; the plans for any acquisition of additional private or public lands; and the impact this proposal will have on the residents of Frankford Township and Sussex County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin requests that once said formal plan is presented, the public shall have ample time to review, question and comment on the plan prior to any action taken by the United States Legislature.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin requests copies of this resolution be sent to President Joe Biden; Governor Phil Murphy; U.S. Senator Robert Menendez; U.S. Senator Cory Booker; Congressman Josh Gottheimer; New Jersey Senator Steven V. Oroho; New Jersey Assemblyman F. Parker Space; New Jersey Assemblyman Harold Wirths; NJ Senator Michael Doherty; Pennsylvania Sierra Club; Sussex County Board of County Commissioners; all municipalities of Sussex County; State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection; National Park Service, Charles Sams, Director; National Park Service Northeast Region, Gay Vietzke, Regional Director; Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Sula Jacobs, Superintendent; Delaware River Basin Commission; Partnership for the Delaware Estuary; National Lands Trust.

### CERTIFICATION

I, Colleen Little, Deputy Clerk of the Borough of Franklin, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey at a regular meeting held on May 24, 2022.



Colleen Little, Deputy Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES				
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CONCETTO FORMICA	X			
RACHEL HEATH	X			
JOSEPH LIMON	X			
JOHN POSTAS	X			
STEPHEN SKELLENGER	X			
GILBERT SNYDER	X			
MAYOR SOWDEN (Tie Only)				