

PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED AT HIGHLANDS
COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 17, 2018

① My name is Hank Klumpp. I own 150 acres in the unjust Highlands Preservation Area.

In August, it will be fourteen years that Highland landowners have been waiting for the compensation that was promised them when the Highlands Act was signed. At the Senate Environment Committee Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee meeting on March 30, 2004, Senator Bob Smith and Assemblyman John McKeon referred to Tom Cruise once saying, "Show me the money" and said they pledged to show the people the money. It was said, "We're currently working with the Governor's office to put together the dedicated and guaranteed source of funding so that the Highlands, which

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is making a sacrifice for the rest of the state, is properly compensated. We will show you the money." The Highlands landowners have been watching their property values fall with ridiculous restrictions and their equity drained putting farmers out of business. How can lawmakers justify not delivering on the promise that was made?

I have been standing before the Highlands Council, monthly, for almost fourteen years now asking to see the scientific study that put my farm into the Highlands Preservation Area and no one seems to be able to find such a study. Could this have

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been "political" and never "scientific"? The Highlands Act was to safeguard a regional watershed that provides "drinking" water to millions of New Jerseyans. Mc Greevey pushed this Act and got it passed by implying that small children would end up dehydrated. Now, what a joke! The water, people had to sacrifice their property values for, is being used to water dozens of golf courses using millions of gallons of water, daily, unrestricted, for only 336 dollars per million gallons with some having 10 year contracts.

Perhaps Governor Murphy should

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face the fact that people who have been forced into the Highlands Preservation Area with no compensation are paying a huge price, and he should be concerning himself with helping and supporting these people of New Jersey to put an end to this injustice.

Governor Murphy must remember that New Jersey is the "Garden State" and his priority should be supporting farmers who have lost their equity and not the concept of making New Jersey the "Sanctuary State" where his interests seem to be the strongest. It is time to step up and get priorities in place.

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