

PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED AT HIGHLANDS
COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

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

I understand that Governor Murphy has nominated three new council members to fill vacant seats on the Highlands Council.

Jeff Tittle can be quoted as saying that they got rid of those with anti-Highlands agendas and now we can start to work towards building a council that is more balanced - whose priorities go towards protecting the Highlands and they can make up for lost time. Lost time? I have been standing here for 15 years! The environmental advocates are praising the nominees. Of course they are. The environmentalists have never cared about

②

anyone who has paid the ultimate price for the flawed Highlands Act by having property values stolen leaving us with lost equity. Anyone who dares to understand how unfair the flawed Highlands Act has been toward property owners who were promised compensation for property value loses are automatically accused of anti-Highlands agendas by environmentalists who cannot wrap their brains around what is fair. Go back to promises made in 2004 that stated that no one would get hurt by the Highlands Act. Unless it happened to you, you do not know the

③

hurt people are facing by losing property values and equity. Perhaps the three new council members, if approved, will risk being accused of anti-Highlands agendas and will try to help honor promises that have been broken. Will it matter to the new members that many boundary lines were decided by politicians and not by scientific study? I have been searching for 15 years for the written scientific study that put my property into the Preservation Area. No one can find it.

Jeff Tittle opposes Governor Christie's appointees saying they have

(4)

anti-Highlands agendas. However, they have the good sense to know what is right and what is wrong, feel landowners' pain, and know that the Highlands Act has major problems that need to be fixed, so he could not wait to get rid of them.

On the 15th Anniversary, Tittle wants to find a new funding source to protect programs in the Highlands Act. How about finding a funding source to compensate people who can no longer rely on property values and equity. It has been said that the Highlands Act is actually an unfunded mandate with a lack of

⑤

compensation for living under it. There is no money to fulfill the requirements.

If people are expected to be the stewards of the land — pay them for it!

Hank Klumpp
24 Longview Road
Lebanon, N. J. 08833