



"BECAUSE AGRICULTURE MATTERS"

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April 30, 2015

Jim Rilee, Chairman
NJ Highlands Council
100 North Rd
Chester, NJ 07930-2322
By email: Margaret.nordstrom@highlands.state.nj.us

Dear Jim,

We are submitting our list of Indicators to monitor the success of the 2008 Regional Master Plan (RMP) along with recommendations for issues we believe are also crucial to increasing effectiveness of the Plan. The latter will be entered on your web portal as well in hopes of having them discussed and included in the RMP re-examination process.

The 2008 RMP was woefully limited in the number of indicators suggested to monitor progress with Highlands agriculture. Our expanded list will help you assemble a more complete picture of how things stand within our community after seven years under the RMP.

Achieving fair equity compensation for the land values they have lost remains the most crucial issue for our members. It is hoped that these expanded indicators as well as the Fiscal Impact Assessment report will accurately reveal the significant change in land values that being included in the Highlands mapping and regulation has caused.

Please note that Farm Bureau along with many other organizations concerned with Highlands natural resource management has signed on in support of the issues and indicators submitted by the combined professional forestry community. The RMP must be revised, we believe, to protect the water resources through responsible active forest management.

You have our total support for this process. We are ready to participate in any way that we can be of service.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryck A. Suydam'.

Ryck Suydam, President, NJ Farm Bureau

Cc: Margaret Nordstrom, Executive Director, NJ Highlands Council
Monique Purcell, NJ Department of Agriculture
Peter Furey, Executive Director, NJ Farm Bureau