

**RESOLUTION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
(SOMERSET COUNTY)
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO
Somerset County Constructing Facilities for Active Recreation
Using Money Specifically Designated to be Used to Purchase Land for Open Space**

WHEREAS, The Franklin Township Environmental Commission has long been an advocate for the preservation of Open Space; and

WHEREAS, Urban and suburban sprawl has consumed vast expanses of Open Space and the natural resources of Somerset County in recent years, destroying bucolic view sheds and threatening fragile ground water and surface water supplies; and

WHEREAS, Funding to purchase Open Spaces was voted on and approved by the residents of Somerset County to preserve Somerset County land for the express purpose of passive recreation; and

WHEREAS, The Somerset County Freeholders are considering using said monies to construct facilities for active recreation; and

WHEREAS, The use of said monies would decrease the County's capability to purchase land, for Open Space application, when it becomes available; and

WHEREAS, The use of said Open Spaces should be managed with Open Space monies to maintain passive recreation (e.g. trail construction, removing multiflora rose etc.) but not for construction of active recreation facilities (e.g. buildings, tennis courts, golf courses etc.) as voted upon by Somerset County residents; and

WHEREAS, If this proposed use of Open Space monies is agreed upon by the Somerset County Freeholders, a vote, by Somerset County residents should be required to change the original agreed/voted upon use of said monies; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Franklin Township Environmental Commission hereby opposes the use of the specifically designated Open Space monies to be used for anything but the purchase of land for Open Space and the maintenance of said land for passive recreation.

Adopted August 8, 2005, by unanimous vote of the Environmental Commission.

Commission Members

Arnold Schmidt, Chairman

Barbara Beringer

Dr. Theodore Chase

John Clyde

Andrew Cozzi

Jean Gierlich

David Triggs