

**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION 2019-33

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES
THAT THE TOWNSHIP WILL NOT COLLECT NEW STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT OR RAIN TAXES

WHEREAS, Bill S1073/A2694 authorizing municipalities and counties to establish stormwater utilities was signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy; and

WHEREAS, municipalities or counties that choose to establish a stormwater utility will be allowed to apply an undetermined tax on property and business owners based on the amount of impervious surface they have, often referred to as a rain tax; and

WHEREAS, there is no limit to the amount property owners and local businesses can be taxed as long as it can be justified as going towards improving stormwater management, however, five (5%) percent or \$50,000 of the revenue is required to be paid to the State and another five (5%) percent can be used for a locality's general fund; and

WHEREAS, sewage authorities must adhere to a two (2%) percent cap on annual increases to property owners and business, but stormwater utilities will not have to adhere to the cap; and

WHEREAS, municipalities and counties already have stormwater systems in place that manage stormwater without the need of creating another level of bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey property taxpayers already pay the highest taxes in the nation, and the creation of any new tax is an impossible burden to put on their backs; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's Business Tax Climate was named last in the nation by the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, and any new taxes to our business owners are not feasible; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Steve Oroho, Assemblyman Parker Space and Assemblyman Hal Wirths are calling on municipalities and counties to come together and signal to their tax-paying residents and businesses that they are aware that New Jersey's tax burden is already too high by making their intentions known through this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette, Sussex County, New Jersey already has a system in place to manage stormwater and will not create a stormwater utility that would impose new taxes on its residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette understands and sympathizes with the heavy tax burden already placed on New Jersey residents and businesses and, therefore, will not charge them an extra tax for having driveways, parking lots and other impervious surface.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, Senate President Steve Sweeney, Senate Republican Leader Thomas Kean Jr., Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick, Senator Steve Oroho, Assemblyman Parker Space and Assemblyman Hal Wirths.

CERTIFICATION

I, AnnaRose Fedish, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Lafayette, Sussex County, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting held on June 5, 2019.

AnnaRose Fedish, RMC
Municipal Clerk