

New Jersey Highlands Council **Letter 14**

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Attributes

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Web Response

As a local architect owning land and practicing architecture in the Warren County Highlands area, I have seen a drastic downturn in the amount of projects and growth within the Highlands, as well as my private residence losing substantial value while my property taxes have skyrocketed. I have absolutely seen the correlation of these issues since the Highlands Act was adopted. There are no new rateables being constructed in Warren County to offset the increasing municipal costs, and with land values decreasing, Warren County has generally been forced to hike property taxes to compensate. I am farm-assessed, and with no option to subdivide, may be forced to declare bankruptcy- who is going to purchase my property with my exorbitant tax burden and under-water property? No one. I will have to give it away and rent- the American dream destroyed. No one in the Highlands area is going to invest in the area, leery of the worthless property they now possess, and who in their right mind is going to move into this area knowing they are buying a black-cloud-shrouded problem? I am on both sides of the fence seeing a complete decline of local projects, while losing value as my property taxes skyrocket. There must be adjustments back towards home-rule with growth potential and improved zoning allowances to accommodate necessary growth in this area, or there is going to a larger failure of local government than we have seen thus far and more than you've anticipated. Mark my words. I am available for any discussion, or advice towards holding on to my farm in this severely-declining situation we've been placed in. Thank you.

Respondent

Organization Type	Business (Affected Owner/CEO, Chamber of Commerce)
Organization	Private Architectural Business Located in Highlands of Warren County
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Title	
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