



*State of New Jersey*

WATERSHED PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF

MARK BECKER

**WHEREAS**, Mark Becker devoted his life to protecting the buffers surrounding North Jersey's drinking water supply and other natural areas and was known as an environmental activist whose efforts helped lead to the conservation of thousands of acres of open space in the upper Hackensack River Watershed and the improvement of drinking water quality in Bergen County; and

**WHEREAS**, Mark Becker, along with Lori Charkey, was the founder of and the spokesperson for the Bergen Save the Watershed Action Network (SWAN), a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of forested buffers around drinking water reservoirs connected to the Upper Hackensack River; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure with Bergen SWAN, Mark Becker worked tirelessly to protect and preserve the forested lands of Bergen County; and

**WHEREAS**, Bergen SWAN's diligent efforts resulted in a landmark settlement agreement being reached in 2009 between the Watershed Property Review Board, United Water New Jersey, Hackensack Riverkeeper and Bergen SWAN to address alleged violations of the Watershed Moratorium Act by granting conservation easements on approximately 3,100 acres of watershed property and setting aside \$1 million to preserve unimproved lands within the watershed and to restore disturbed watershed property by removing all non-native vegetation; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 26, 2014, Mark Becker's life came to an untimely end as a result of a motor vehicle accident.

**THEREFORE**, the Board **HEREBY RESOLVES** to extend its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mark Becker, honors Mr. Becker's memory with affection and gratitude and pledges to sustain his legacy by continuing the work in pursuing the preservation of watershed forested buffers around our drinking water reservoirs.

DATED: May 9, 2014

WATERSHED PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD

BY:

  
DIANNE SOLOMON  
PRESIDENT  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

  
BOB MARTIN  
COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION