TOWNSHIP OF FRANKFORD
COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION 2026-041

REQUESTING GOVERNOR MIKIE SHERRILL RESTORE FULL FUNDING TO THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL OF CONSERVATION

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2022, the State of New Jersey Legislature amended N.J.S.A. 18A:64I-1, et seq. transferring the direction of the New Jersey School of Conservation ("NJSOC") property from Montclair State University to the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation, a tax-exempt nonprofit organization; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A, 18A:64I-1, NJSOC shall be used in perpetuity as a school for environmental field study under the direction of the Friends of the NJSOC pursuant to a 20-year lease between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Friends of NJSOC; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:641-5 provides that the State of New Jersey shall provide all moneys appropriated by an annual appropriation act for the maintenance and support of the NJSOC to the Friends of NJSOC, which shall expend the funds for the expenses necessary for the operation of the NJSOC, including maintenance of the grounds and buildings, purchase of equipment, funding educational programs, and housing students and teachers; and

WHEREAS, any monies appropriated under N.J.S.A. 18A:64I-5 shall pass through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to the Friends of NJSOC; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has eliminated funds for the operation and maintenance of the NJSOC thus forcing the NJSOC to close: and

WHEREAS, such a closing will hurt the local Sussex County economy, where the NJSOC has worked with 9 local businesses contributing $1.7 million to the local economy over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, partnerships, associations and programs with numerous local community organizations including Sussex County ARC, Sussex County Library, Sussex County Self Sufficiency - NJ Youth Corps, Sussex County Chamber of Commerce will be curtailed; and

WHEREAS, eight Sussex County elementary schools who rely on their environmental education programming through field trips at the NJSOC will be halted; and

WHEREAS, a dozen Sussex County teachers who have attended teacher professional development training on conservation, stewardship and climate change will no longer have the benefit of this necessary training; and

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Community College has recently entered into a partnership to allow for field study, research and interns at the NJSOC for their students; and

WHEREAS, if not funded, the NJSOC would be forced to layoff of 30 dedicated professionals many who live in Sussex County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Frankford Township Committee, in full consideration of the negative impact to the economy of Sussex County, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the students, educators and researchers of the state of New Jersey, call upon Governor Mikie Sherrill to immediately restore the New Jersey School of Conservation's budget request of Three million ($3,000,000.00) Dollars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk shall forward a certified true copy of this resolution to the Office of Governor Mikie Sherrill; Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia, Assemblyman Michael Inganamort; and the New Jersey School of Conservation.

CERTIFICATION

I, Lori Nienstedt, Municipal Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the Resolution adopted by the Frankford Township Committee at their Workshop Meeting held on June 9, 2026.

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Lori Nienstedt, MBA, RMC
Municipal Clerk