

Borough of Jim Thorpe  
Carbon County, Pennsylvania

PROCLAMATION

**Support for citizens' concerns with placement of wind turbines in Penn Forest Township,  
Carbon County, Pennsylvania**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Jim Thorpe is, as is Penn Forest Township, in addition to the boroughs of Lansford and Summit Hill, a party to the Middle Carbon County Comprehensive Plan dated 2012, hereinafter referred to as the Plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Penn Forest Township are concerned with the potential adverse impact of planned wind turbines within Penn Forest Township; and,

**WHEREAS**, the construction and operation of wind turbines may impact the health of residents and degrade the character and beauty of the natural environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the character and beauty of the area's natural environment are critical elements in maintaining tourism and economic stability; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan's parties came together as a means to achieve coordinated, quality growth that enhances the community's positive assets; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan was undertaken to improve the quality of life for residents by maintaining and improving the natural environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan is to be consistent with the Carbon County Comprehensive Plan, hereinafter referred to as the County Plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the County Plan recognizes the Pennsylvania Science Officer's designation of Penn Forest/Wild Creek Reservoir as a "Top Priority, Statewide" natural area containing endangered flora and fauna; and,

**WHEREAS**, the "Top Priority, Statewide" natural area's extensive forested area provides habitat for a variety of species and protection for a valuable water source; and,

**WHEREAS**, Wild Creek Basin, in accordance with Pennsylvania Code, Chapter 93, Water Quality Standards, is designated Exceptional Value Water; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan describes the parties of this compact as conservators of resources and habitat, with local citizens directly involved in the control of community assets as they plan for the retention, enrichment and equitable use of those assets for present and future generations; and,

**WHEREAS**, the parties to the Plan are to protect the environment and guide the location of future development and establish performance standards to minimize negative impacts (externalities) on the natural environment and the community as a whole; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan's environmental protection objective is intended to minimize negative impacts (externalities) on the natural environment and the community as a whole; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan's premiere goal is to protect the area's quality lifestyle by maintaining and enhancing rural character, and recognize the abundant forest land as an important element of the local economy, character and scenic setting; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan's Natural Resource Goal is to conserve streams, lakes and other natural resources and use the resources in a way to sustain the area's economy; and,

**WHEREAS**, the use of natural resources and sensitive environmental areas in the area can lead to the decline of community character and the quality lifestyle it affords with eventual direct threats to the environment and public health and safety. Of special concern are lakes, streams, ground water, forest and soil resources with recognition that if the quality of the area's natural resources are diminished, the quality of life and the local economy will suffer and water supplies could be threatened; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan's number one Natural Resource Objective, Conservation and Sensitive Natural Area, is to conserve open land, including those areas containing unique and sensitive natural features such as woodlands, steep slopes and streams, by setting them aside from development; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan emphasizes area-wide cooperation to coordinate environmental preservation efforts with neighboring jurisdiction; and,

**WHEREAS**, protection of natural resources is a key goal of the Plan due to the local recreation and tourism economy's reliance on natural features, as well as the health and quality of life benefits derived from a healthy environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan recognizes the importance to protect critical wildlife habitat areas; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan emphasizes conserving ridge lines and scenic view sheds and preserving the characteristics of important ridge lines and scenic views by limiting the amount and type of clearing associated with development; and,

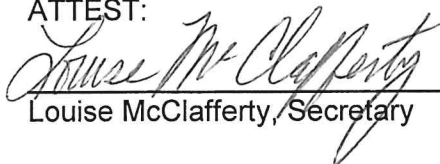
**WHEREAS**, property values directly impact the financial underpinning of municipalities, the county and school districts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council acknowledges the need for balancing development, to include alternative and/or renewable energy, with reasonable concerns of resident,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Borough Council of Jim Thorpe does hereby acknowledge and proclaim the need for due consideration of the concerns voiced by citizens of co-party to the Plan, Penn Forest Township, in all aspects related to the placement of wind turbines in that municipality.

**APPROVED** by the Borough Council of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2018.

ATTEST:

  
Louise McClafferty, Secretary

  
Gregory Strubinger, President

  
Michael J. Soffanko, Mayor