

# BERGEN BEAT

*News and notes from Bergen County towns by The Record's local news team*

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

## Cresskill resident nominated for Highlands Council

**Cresskill** resident Michael Dressler, who is also Bergen County surrogate, got lots of praise today.

The Senate Judiciary Committee signed off on his nomination, sending it to the full Senate for a vote. Once confirmed, Dressler will be the only Bergen County resident on the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council, which is tasked with protecting the water supply in New Jersey's Highlands. The Highlands district traverses seven counties, including Bergen and Passaic, and supplies water to 5.5 million people.

"He has just an impeccable record serving the public and he will bring the right balance," Sen. Paul Sarlo, D-Wood-Ridge said. "He will work with the environmentalists and the homeowners."

The Christie nominee also gained the support of the NJ Sierra Club, who took a jab at the governor for some recent "bad nominations."

"The governor is one for four on Highlands appointments with more bad appointments to come," NJ Sierra Club Director Jeff Tittle said. "A 250 batting average isn't even good for baseball, let alone protecting the water supply for people of New Jersey."

Tittle said Dressler is a contrast to recent appointees, Hunterdon County Freeholder Robert Walton, Roxbury Township Mayor Jim Rilee and Lopatcong Councilman James Mengucci.

**During the hearing, Elliott Ruga, senior policy analyst for the New Jersey Highlands Coalition, spoke on behalf of Dressler's nomination saying he would not bring a political or ideological agenda to the council.**

Dressler, who was elected to the Cresskill council at age 22 and also served as the borough's mayor before becoming surrogate 24 years ago, said he looks forward to serving on the council.

"I spent my entire adult life serving the people of my town, my county and my state and I look forward to doing that again as a member of the Highlands Council," he said.

Posted by Melissa Hayes on 05/31 at 03:47 PM