

# Hunterdon County Democrat

## Protecting water supply

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*Letters to the Editor*

To the Editor:

In the public record of Deborah Post's continuing efforts to sell the development rights of her farm, Post has filed suit against the Township of Chester and the State Agricultural Development Committee. She has also repeatedly quarreled with the Morris County Agricultural Development Board.

If the almost two-foot high stack of papers that comprise the Post files in Chester Township, NJDEP, and the county and state agricultural boards are any indication, Post has devoured an astonishing store of municipal, county and state resources for the sole purpose of finagling a price for her land that exceeds any accepted standards of valuation.

Post's claim that \$6 billion in property values "vaporized" as a result of the Highlands Act is an extension of the self-serving value she assigns to her own property. Her assertion that the Highlands Act is a "regulatory taking that violates the Fifth Amendment" has yet to find a court of law that agrees.

Sometimes lost amid her noise and that of the small but vocal anti-Highlands mob is the steadily increasing momentum of the more than 20 municipalities that have thus far conformed to the Highlands Regional Master Plan — and the remaining majority of Highlands towns that are still working with the Highlands Council towards achieving it. Also, we shouldn't allow the noise to blur the reason for the Highlands Act — protecting the water supply of much of New Jersey, and an understanding of the consequences of forever losing it.

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