



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.  
Essex County Executive

**COUNTY OF ESSEX**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND**  
**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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Daniel K. Salvante  
Director

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June 2, 2025

**Resolution of the Essex County Environmental Commission**

REQUESTING THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE SUPPORT THE  
PRESERVATION OF THE FOREST ON  
THE SECOND WATCHUNG MOUNTAIN RIDGE

WHEREAS, these 120 acres of intact forest are a significant element of the West Essex area; and

WHEREAS, the forest provides biodiversity, groundwater recharge, clean air and carbon storage; and

WHEREAS, this area provides natural habitats for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, this area serves clean water to towns in Essex County communities and reduces flooding and erosion; and

WHEREAS, this area serves as a major cooling zone to offset the urban heat island effect; and

WHEREAS, this area increases open space in an area with little open space; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex County Environmental Commission respectfully requests that the Township of West Orange reject the proposed housing development and instead permanently preserve the forest on the Second Watchung Mountain Ridge Forest.

**Co-Chairs**

Jennifer Duckworth  
Jasmin Morin

**Members**

Karima Jackson  
Ann Marchioni  
Johnathan Redwine  
Gray Russell

**Honorable County  
Commissioner**

Patricia Sebold

**County Commissioner  
Alternate**

Dawn Spango

**Essex County, Liaison  
Environmental  
Coordinator**

Tara M Casella