

**MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION 05-2018-2

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED ROUTE 80 ROCK WALL
THROUGH THE DELAWARE WATER GAP**

WHEREAS, the Township of Middle Smithfield (the "Township"), Monroe County, Pennsylvania, is located in the scenic Poconos, and adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area;

WHEREAS, the Township Board of Supervisors (the "Board") is the governing body for the Township, as per the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code;

WHEREAS, the Delaware Water Gap is a nationally prominent scenic wonder and a gateway to one of the most widely used National Parks in the nation;

WHEREAS, tourism related to the natural and historic resources of the Poconos and the Delaware Water Recreation Area is an important part of the Township's economy;

WHEREAS, the Township is home to several resorts, hotels, motels, and vacation properties;

WHEREAS, a majority of the Township's tourist visitors from the east arrive via U.S. Route 80;

WHEREAS, Township residents who commute to New Jersey and New York for work typically will travel through U.S. Route 80 in the area of Delaware Water Gap, and are dependent for their livelihood on the U.S. Route 80 being open, and unrestricted;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) intends to build a fence to keep rocks from purportedly falling onto Route 80 near the Delaware Water Gap;

WHEREAS, the size and design of the proposed bridge will detract from the natural beauty of the area

WHEREAS, construction of the Route 80 fence is slated to begin in 2020, may last two years, and is expected to require significant road and/or lane closures on Rt 80 in the Delaware Water gap area;

WHEREAS, the income generated by tourism to Middle Smithfield, the Poconos and Delaware Water Gap will likely be negatively impacted by the proposed fence;

WHEREAS, other neighboring municipalities to the Delaware Water Gap, including the Knowlton and Hardwick Townships, have expressed similar concerns, and oppose the project;

WHEREAS, the proposed Route 80 Rockfall Mitigation will be built on lands located in Knowlton and Hardwick Townships and the Delaware National Water Gap Park;

WHEREAS, there are no documented rockfall events nor any recollections of significant rockfall events over the last ten years within Knowlton's Area "D" portion of the project; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT's Concept Development Report, prepared by HNTB Corporation and dated September 2011, acknowledges that "NJDOT provided limited rockfall event data, and the actual frequency of rock activity is unknown".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED on this 10th day of May 2018, as follows:

1. Middle Smithfield Township is opposed to the Rt 80 Rock Wall project (the "Project").
2. The Project is expected to be harmful to the economy of the Township and surrounding areas.
3. The Project will negatively affect Township residents who commute to New Jersey and New York for their businesses and jobs.
4. The Project appears unnecessary, and unreasonable in scope.
5. The Township requests the assistance of the following elected representatives in halting the funding for and reconsidering this Project:

US Senator Cory Booker

US Congressman Josh Gottheimer

US Congressman Matt Cartwright

NJ Senator Steven Oroho and Assemblymen Space and Wirths

PA State Representative Rosemary M. Brown

PA State Senator Mario Scavello

Knowlton Township Mayor Adele Starrs

Resolved the 10th day of May, 2018, by the Board of Supervisors of the Middle Smithfield Township at a lawful session duly assembled.

TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE SMITHFIELD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michele Clewell
Chairman

Michael D. Orey
Vice Chairman

Mark D. Orey
Supervisor

(Township Seal)

Michele L. Clewell

Michele L. Clewell, Township Secretary