



**Hatfield Township
RESOLUTION #11-33**

***PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
RENEWING GROWING GREENER***

WHEREAS the Growing Greener program has provided funding for preserving open space and farmlands, developing community park and recreation areas, cleaning up abandoned mines and brownfield sites, restoring impaired rivers and streams, and protecting and improving our state game, forest, and park lands; and

WHEREAS Hatfield Township has effectively leveraged Growing Greener funds to achieve tangible, lasting results for its residents; and

WHEREAS the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners seek to protect the health of its citizens and enhance the quality of life for its residents, in part by planning for and implementing projects that preserve open space and historic resources, providing for community parks and recreation, and safeguarding water resources; and

WHEREAS these projects also provide significant health and economic benefits, increase property values and improve the community's ability to attract growing businesses; and

WHEREAS the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners have learned that Growing Greener II will soon expire and funds for Growing Greener I have been precipitously diminished; and that this will affect the community's ability to restore and protect our local environment and the environment of Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners understand that throughout Pennsylvania, Growing Greener II has helped to preserve nearly 34,000 acres of working family farms ; conserve more than 42,300 acres of threatened natural areas; restore more than 1,600 acres of abandoned mine lands; and enhance access to outdoor recreation through 234 community park projects and 132 state park and forest infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution states that, "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people"; and

WHEREAS the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners realize that the Commonwealth is losing three times more forest, wildlife habitat, farmland and other open spaces to development than it is able to preserve; and that the Commonwealth has over 16,000 miles of rivers and streams that are unsafe for fishing and swimming; and that in Pennsylvania more than 2,000 working family farms await protection from encroaching development; and that 189,000 acres of abandoned mine lands scar 44 of

the Commonwealth's counties; and that the grant funds available for community and county recreation, greenways and trails projects have been severely diminished; and

WHEREAS the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners wish to encourage and support renewed funding for the *Growing Greener* program, before the last of the Growing Greener II funds are spent in 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners support renewal of Growing Greener by the General Assembly and Governor Corbett with dedicated, sustainable and long-term funding sources,
2. The signed resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor and our respective county and state legislators.

Enacted and Adopted this 12th of October 2011.

**HATFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

BY: _____
Thomas C. Zipfel, President

ATTEST: _____
Andrew S. Haines, Township Manager