



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF SMART GROWTH

101 SOUTH BROAD STREET

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TRENTON NJ 08625-0204

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

JOSEPH V. DORIA, JR.
Commissioner

BENJAMIN L. SPINELLI
Executive Director

August 11, 2008

The Honorable Bernard O'Brien
Mayor, Township of Holland
Town Hall
61 Church Road
Milford, NJ 08848

**Re: Holland Township Petition for Initial Plan Endorsement
Memorandum of Understanding**

Dear Mayor O'Brien:

We received the resolution passed by the Township Committee on August 5, 2008. Thank you for your continued participation and dedication to the Initial Plan Endorsement process. As we all understand, there are a number of important decisions that need to be made before you and the Township Committee can decide whether Initial Plan Endorsement is the appropriate route for the Township. We would like to offer a 90 day extension or until November 10, 2008, before making your decision regarding Initial Plan Endorsement to allow time for a better understanding of requirements from the Highlands Council and to adjust the Action Plan. During this 90 day extension period, staff from the Office of Smart Growth will work with your consultants to create an Action Plan that addresses concerns raised at the Planning Board meeting on August 4, 2008 and a time table that is better suited to Township's abilities.

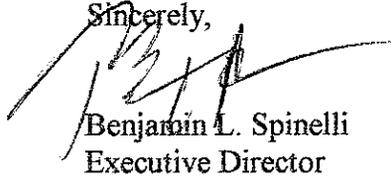
We will also discuss our new Plan Endorsement process and whether there is interest in the Township for us to conduct a public Center education session in September or October. We feel that the public meeting will allow the Center concept to be fully explored. The Highlands Council will also be invited to the session to serve as a resource.

We have no doubt that the Township is trying to make the best possible planning decisions and the Office of Smart Growth wants to support that with this extension. We want to ensure that this process will produce a meaningful plan for your community.



Please feel free to contact me or Barry Ableman, Principal Planner for Hunterdon County (e-mail: bableman@dca.state.nj.us or telephone: 609-292-3228) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Spinelli
Executive Director

BS:ba
Enclosures

c: Catherine M. Miller, Municipal Clerk
Peter Craig, Planning Board Chair, Holland Township
Elizabeth C. McKenzie, P.P., P.A.
Caroline Armstrong, P.P., AICP
G. Sue Dziamara, AICP/PP, Planning Director, Hunterdon County
Eileen Swan, Executive Director, Highlands Council
Karl Hartkopf, PP/AICP, Director of Planning, OSG
Barry Ableman, Principal Planner, OSG
State agency representatives *via email*