

RESOLUTION 2026-243

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE EGG
HARBOR, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE MULLICA
RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES AS COMPONENTS OF
THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Mullica River watershed is one of New Jersey's most ecologically significant river systems, flowing through the heart of the Pinelands National Reserve and supporting globally rare habitats, exceptional biodiversity, outstanding water quality, and critical wildlife corridors; and

WHEREAS, the Mullica River and its tributaries provide important recreational opportunities, including paddling, fishing, birding, hiking, and nature-based tourism that contribute to the region's economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the river system supports numerous rare, threatened, and endangered species and contains significant cultural, historical, and archaeological resources that reflect the unique heritage of South Jersey and the Pinelands region; and

WHEREAS, designation under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act would recognize the outstanding natural, scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife, cultural, and ecological values of the Mullica River watershed while maintaining local control of land use decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Mullica River is a 50.6-mile free-flowing river system that flows through extensive stretches of Wharton State Forest and the Pinelands National Reserve, containing some of the most pristine waters, intact forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitat in the northeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, together with its tributaries, including the Batsto River, Wading River, Oswego River, Sleeper Branch, Albertson Brook, and numerous Pinelands streams, the Mullica River watershed forms one of the largest and most intact river systems remaining in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Wild and Scenic River designation does not create a national park, does not require federal ownership of private property, and does not alter existing municipal zoning

authority, but instead provides a framework to protect the free-flowing character and outstanding resource values of the river system; and

WHEREAS, the designation would help safeguard water quality, ecosystem integrity, outdoor recreation, and the character of surrounding communities for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Little Egg Harbor Township and our residents have a strong interest in preserving the ecological health, scenic beauty, and natural heritage of the Mullica River watershed; and

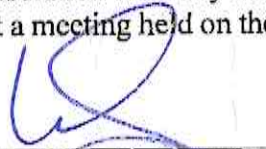
WHEREAS, protecting the Mullica River and its tributaries will help ensure the long-term resilience of the region's drinking water supplies, wildlife habitats, forests, wetlands, and local economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Little Egg Harbor, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Mayor and Committee hereby expresses support for the designation of eligible segments of the Mullica River and its tributaries as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and encourages federal, state, county, municipal, nonprofit, and community partners to work collaboratively to advance this designation and protect the outstanding resources of the Mullica River watershed
2. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to members of New Jersey's Congressional Delegation, the Governor of New Jersey, the Ocean County Board of Commissioners, the New Jersey Legislature, the National Park Service, and other appropriate agencies and stakeholders.

CERTIFICATION

I, KELLY LETTERA, CMC, RMC, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Little Egg Harbor do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township of Little Egg Harbor Township Committee at a meeting held on the 13th day of **August, 2026**.



KELLY LETTERA, CMC, RMC
Township Clerk
Little Egg Harbor Township