A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REDESIGNATION OF THE DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA TO A NATIONAL PARK UNLESS AND UNTIL THE EXACT CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH AN ACTION IS DISCLOSED AND AGREED TO BY DINGMAN TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) was established in 1965 and encompasses nearly 70,000 acres in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; and,

WHEREAS, since that date the DEWA has offered recreational opportunities to local residents and visitors, and,

WHEREAS, the Sierra Club and other entities have recommended to the United States

Congress that the DEWA be redesignated as a National Park, and,

WHEREAS in the past, such a redesignation was spoken of by the Superintendent(s) of the DEWA as a very positive step for the DEWA, the surrounding community, and the general public, and,

WHEREAS Dingman Township is comprised of approximately 38,692 acres, a substantial portion of which is public land, and,

WHEREAS the staff of DEWA prepared a document entitled "Vision 2030, A Vision For A Sustainable Future" which provides for the acquisition of additional lands, potentially within Dingman Township, and provides for potential additional controls on the use of DEWA lands, and,

WHEREAS, the Dingman Township Board of Supervisors is very concerned about this proposal because it does not identify and specify the impact that such a designation would have upon the Township and its citizens such as additional land acquisition, land use controls on lands not acquired, limits on the use of DEWA for hunting and fishing, traffic, the availability of

additional federal funding for park operations, the use of US 209 by non-park visitors, the collection of fees for entry into the park, etc.; and,

WHEREAS, the Dingman Township Board of Supervisors recognize that there are economic benefits to the Township from tourism but also recognize the strain that tourists in the DEWA place upon the Township, especially upon its emergency services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Dingman Township hereby expresses its opposition to the Sierra Club proposal or any similar proposal to redesignate the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) as a National Park unless and until there is an agreement on the impact of such a designation on Dingman Township and its citizens.

Ordained and enacted this 19 day of April, 2022.

DINGMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Thomas E. Mincer

Edward D. Nikles

Elefterie G. Balu

Attest:

Re # 2022 - 04