



October 27, 2023

Town of Highland  
Ms. Monica McGill, Planning Board Secretary  
4 Proctor Rd, Eldred, NY 12732

Submitted electronically to:

[planningboardzba@townofhighlandny.com](mailto:planningboardzba@townofhighlandny.com)

Dear Town of Highland Planning Board.

I would like to begin by thanking you for your decision to require a full EIS for the Camp FIMFO proposal. Your decision ensures the best opportunity for the town to fully comply with state law and to ensure that the environmental and community impacts of Camp FIMFO are fully identified, quantified and considered as part of decisionmaking. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network applauds your decision in this regard.

The key now will be full and fair implementation of that determination and to ensure the Town gets the best information out of this process. With that in mind, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network is urging you to extend the public comment period regarding the Camp FIMFO draft scoping document.

As you know, this is a highly controversial issue that has garnered tremendous interest and engagement from the public. Given the high level of interest, providing only 20 days for the community to fully consider and gather their comments will inhibit many from being able to fully and fairly participate in this important public comment opportunity. In addition, the 20 day period includes days leading up to Thanksgiving when many people will be travelling in order to spend Thanksgiving week with family, which is very unfair and infringes upon the ability of people to fully and fairly engage. The comment period of time that includes the days leading up to, and including, election day – a day when many engaged members of our community are participating in our democracy, including volunteering time to share candidate information and to staff the polls. Given the significant interest and impact of this proposal on the Town of Highland, but also beyond – including neighboring communities in New York and Pennsylvania, as well as having implications for the broader Delaware River watershed region – it is essential that the Town of Highland work to support broad and inclusive engagement.

A robust, inclusive, and fully informed comment process will not only serve the community, but it will best serve the Town of Highland Planning Board and other involved decisionmaking entities. The

more complete the public comment information received during this crucial process, the better the information the Town and other regulatory agencies will have in order to inform their decision.

Therefore, we ask that you please extend the public comment period to December 21, 2023.

Respectfully requested,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maya K. van Rossum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Maya K. van Rossum  
the Delaware Riverkeeper