

Solbergs Could Have Made It Easier

To the Editor:

It was amusing to read that a taxpayers group is suing the township for overspending taxpayer money. Nobody knows about this group, not even the investigating reporters. The only people who do know about them are the Solbergs, who wholeheartedly support them, but will not divulge their identity. It is obvious that the group is a creation of the Solbergs, their supporters and the misguided who live among us, trying to destroy the quality of life for all of us.

The Solbergs have been using their tactics of delay and postpone for 30 years, in order to achieve their goal, which is conversion of a recreational airport into a jetport. They wanted the township to vote on the bond issue. The people voted "yes" but the Solbergs did not like the outcome. They supported two real estate developers to replace members of our township committee, but fortunately they were defeated at the polls.

They tried to scare us that the township would use eminent domain. They say that if the township uses eminent domain to take their father's airport, they might also take our mothers' houses and maybe their jewelry, too.

Let us be clear about eminent domain. Eminent domain, in Webster's Dictionary: "in law, the right of a government to take, or to authorize the taking of, private property for public use, just compensation being given to the owner." For example, if your house is right where a highway is going through, it will be taken by the government and you will be paid the market value of the house. If it were not for eminent domain, this country would not have railroads or enjoy

47,000 miles of highway. We would not have the schools, colleges, tunnels, bridges, etc. that we enjoy today. These are all for the public's benefit.

In trying to convince Readington residents, the Solbergs and their partners have used every opportunity to insult and discredit our township committee. Julia Allen has been most maligned by these people because she

has fought hard to keep our township rural, as we like it. We are fortunate to have Ms. Allen as our representative. Our Township Committee was elected and re-elected by the majority. Yet the Solbergs and their partners treat them as if they were "s"elected.

The Solbergs claim they are doing us a favor by having the Balloon Festival here and putting Readington on the map. Is it for their benefit or ours? The event brings 150,000 people into a township of 16,000. There are three days of traffic jams and disruption. Most of us do not want to put Readington "on the map." Many residents work in busy cities, but prefer living in our quiet residential township.

The Solbergs are accusing our officials of over-spending and causing our taxes to go up. If they would negotiate in good faith with our officials and keep the airport as a recreational facility, we would have closed this issue long ago and saved a lot of money.

The Township Committee has given the Solberg family more time to come to the table to negotiate in good faith. The time for negotiation is past and our elected officials are using the right course of action with the condemnation process for the benefit of the public. Most of the township supports them, as do our neighboring townships.

We the people, by the people, and for the people, shall never allow one family to destroy the quality of life for all the families of our township!

ABRAHAM FARSIUO
Readington Township