

## Last Resort?

### To the Editor:

In what it claims is a "last resort," the Readington Township Committee filed a condemnation action in court against Solberg Airport.

Committee members will tell you they have grown frustrated over their inability to close this issue and had no choice but to act. They have told us the airport will expand and our quality of life will be ruined. But these scare tactics ring hollow because there has been no change in the status of airport approvals for more than five years and because Readington can deny any site plan approval for a runway expansion based on environmental or other concerns. Moreover, the environmental assessment the committee claimed supported a major airport expansion turned out not to do so. Because the facts don't support their long-standing goal to seize the airport, they have spread rumors, misled the public, and collaborated with the anti-airport group BRAAC to scare residents.

They have also spent around \$100,000 of taxpayers' money on a PR firm to spread this misinformation. Our committee has said the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey was eyeing the Solberg property to build another major airport. But I spoke with a senior representative of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and he said Solberg is outside the search area and is not being considered.

Our committee has not met directly with state Department of Transportation Commissioner Kris Kolluri to discuss how he could help. He's an intelligent, reasonable man who should be viewed as part of the solution. Our committee has not publicly sought out the assistance of our own very influential state Sen. Leonard Lance. Why have they not urged him to sponsor and champion legislation that would prevent Solberg Airport from expanding due to its close proximity to our schools?

Our committee members have also refused to consider non-binding mediation. Instead, they have followed a win-lose negotiation strategy that any professional negotiator will tell you is destined to fail.

This is not only about the airport. This is also about a land grab and Julia Allen's crusade to cement her open-space legacy. She will do whatever it takes to accomplish her imperious vision for Readington. After all, the ends justify the means; what does it matter if she tramples on some of the fundamental rights our great country was founded on? She and the committee members must be right because they (and their PR machine) have told us so. Excuse me for not believing them and for being concerned about their reckless squandering of taxpayers' money.

**ED DUDZINSKI**

Readington Township