

RESOLUTION 2009- 51
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
SUPPORT FOR VOTER REFERENDUM BALLOT QUESTION #1

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act) has created a public body corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council); and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has adopted the Highlands Act in recognition that the Highlands Region serves as an essential source of drinking water for over 65% of the State of New Jersey's population and that the area includes exceptional natural resources such as clean air, contiguous forest lands, wetlands, pristine watersheds, habitat for fauna and flora, many sites of historic significance and provides abundant recreational opportunities for the citizens of the New Jersey, all of which are an invaluable and irreplaceable asset of the current citizens of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act acknowledges that the protection of these water resources, because of their vital link to the future of the State's drinking water supplies is an issue of statewide importance; and that the State has given an abiding and generous commitment to protecting the incomparable water resources and natural beauty of the New Jersey Highlands so as to preserve them intact, in trust, forever for the pleasure, enjoyment and use of future generations; and

WHEREAS, as the steward of that trust, it is incumbent upon the State to commit itself to the management and preservation in perpetuity of those resources indispensable to the health and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act empowers the Highlands Council to identify and designate areas in the Highlands Region within which development shall not occur in order to protect water resources and environmentally sensitive lands while recognizing the need for a strong and significant commitment by the State to fund the acquisition of exceptional natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to identify lands in which the public acquisition therein is necessary or desirable in order to ensure preservation thereof; as well as any lands the beneficial use of which are so adversely affected by the restrictions of the Highlands Act as to require a guarantee of just compensation thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund that funds the Green Acres Program and State Agriculture Development Committee Farmland Preservation Program, and other programs is no longer be able to issue any new bond, note or other obligation after June 30, 2009 unless the Trust Fund is reauthorized; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council acknowledges and applauds the numerous federal, State, county, local and other funding mechanisms in place to preserve water resource and environmentally sensitive lands through the Garden State Preservation Trust ("GSPT") Fund, including the Green Acres Program and State Agriculture Development Committee Farmland Preservation Program, the New Jersey Historic Trust, and the Blue Acres Program; and

WHEREAS, the "Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009", signed by Governor Corzine August 18, 2009, authorized the voter referendum on Question #1 seeking approval to issue \$400 million in New Jersey General Obligation bonds "for (1) the acquisition and development of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, including lands that protect water supplies, (2) the preservation of farmland for agricultural or horticultural use and production, (3) the acquisition, for recreation and conservation purposes, of properties that are prone to or have incurred flood or storm damage, and (4) funding historic preservation projects; and providing the ways and means to pay the interest on the debt and also to pay and discharge the principal thereof, with full public disclosure of all spending"; and

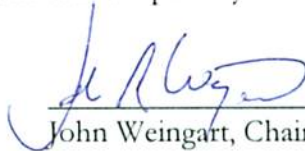
RESOLUTION 2009- 51
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
SUPPORT FOR VOTER REFERENDUM BALLOT QUESTION #1

WHEREAS, Question #1 will be on the November 3, 2009 Election Day Ballot for consideration by the citizenry of New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Highlands Council supports the approval and passage of the voter referendum on Question #1 in order to acquire and protect the resources of the New Jersey Highlands including acquisition, preservation and stewardship of the lands or other interests in lands necessary for the preservation and protection of these Highlands resources.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 15th day of October, 2009.



John Weingart, Chairman

Vote on the Approval of this
Resolution

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Alstede	_____	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____
Councilmember Calabrese	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Carluccio	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Cogger	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Francis	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Kovach	✓	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Letts	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Peterson	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Schrier	_____	✓	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Vetrano	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	✓
Councilmember Way	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Whitenack	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Weingart	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____