

RESOLUTION 2013-10
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING
COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR A DEDICATED SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR
LAND CONSERVATION

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

WHEREAS, the Act designated and established an 881,000 acre region of New Jersey as a regional planning, land use, and water management body which was required to adopt a Regional Master Plan, which Plan was adopted July 17, 2008 and became effective September 8, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Act recognizes that implementation of the Regional Master Plan, which directs and guides future development, inevitably has an impact on landowner expectations regarding future land use potential and recognizes the need to provide just compensation to the owners of lands designated in the Regional Master Plan as special areas in the Preservation Area within which development shall not occur in order to protect water resources and environmentally sensitive lands; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes the Highlands Council to identify lands in which the public acquisition, including lesser interests, 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 Act provides several mechanisms that seek to mitigate such impacts, including, but not limited to acquisition, transfer of development rights programs, or other means or strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Act finds that "a new regional planning approach and the more stringent environmental regulatory standards should be accompanied by" ... "a strong and significant commitment by the State to fund the acquisition of exceptional natural resource value lands" as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council acknowledges and applauds the numerous federal, State, county, local and other funding mechanisms already 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. The Highlands Council believes it is prudent and necessary for exploration to begin evaluating future sources of funds for acquisition and protection of critical natural resources of the New Jersey Highlands so that necessary funding mechanisms can be put into place; and

RESOLUTION 2013-10
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING
COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR A DEDICATED SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR
LAND CONSERVATION

2. That it is requested that any and all Legislative action, Agency regulations, or Administrative Orders affected by any State Agency or body politic that impacts the administration of the Act be closely coordinated with the Highlands Council prior to implementation.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 21st day of March 2013.



Jim Rilee, Chairman

**Vote on the Approval of
This Resolution**

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilmember Alstede	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Carluccio	_____	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____
Councilmember Dougherty	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Dressler	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	✓
Councilmember Francis	_____	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____
Councilmember Holtaway	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember James	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Richko	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Sebetich	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember T'fank	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	✓
Councilmember Visioli	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Vohden	_____	✓	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Walton	✓	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Chairman Rilee	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____