

New Jersey Highlands Council **Letter 17**

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Dear Highlands Council Members, The Highlands Regional Master Plan has been very successful in implementing the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act. New Jersey residents are fortunate to live in a state where the protection of natural resources and water conservation are a high priority. The Preservation and Planning areas have helped to define and protect the valuable water resources which New Jersey residents rely on. The rampant development of previous years has been slowed, which is necessary in the most densely populated state in our country. We have only to look at the current water crisis in California to realize that without the RMP, New Jersey could be headed in the same direction of dwindling and non-existent water resources. I have heard some folks say they feel they have been shortchanged financially due to the RMP, but please consider the fact that since the 2007 recession, the property value bubble has burst for all New Jersey residents and we have all been affected. It is not practical to make restitution to all. The important thing to remember is that in continuing the RMP restrictions we meet goal of preserving our water and other natural resources for current and future generations. Thank you for all your hard work and please keep the standards high. Respectfully submitted, Carol M. Vreeland

Respondent

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