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HIGHLANDS COUNCIL EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chester, NJ- The New Jersey Highlands Council has extended the official period for receiving comments on its draft Regional Master Plan. The period will close on May 11, 2007.

The draft Regional Master Plan was released on November 30th for public comment. The Plan is a comprehensive, science-based plan, designed to safeguard New Jersey's most significant source of drinking water.

Comments are welcomed from all interested parties via email at DraftPlanComments@highlands.state.nj.us or mail. Eight public hearings have been held throughout the region and in Trenton since the draft Plan's release. Equal consideration will be given to comments regardless of how they are received.

In August 2004, the New Jersey Legislature enacted the Highland Water Protection and Planning Act in order to protect over 850,000 acres which supply drinking water for more than sixty-five percent of New Jersey's residents. The Highlands Act created the Highlands Council as a regional planning entity charged with protecting the water resources and natural beauty of the New Jersey Highlands while allowing for planned, sustainable development and redevelopment of the region. The fifteen Council members include a broad and representative range of elected officials from Highlands municipalities and counties, as well as individuals with diverse backgrounds and area perspectives.