

**RESOLUTION 2024-20**  
**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION OF**  
**THE HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL IN**  
**THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
**CROSS-ACCEPTANCE PROCESS**

**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 Highlands Council is a regional planning agency that works in partnership with municipalities and counties in the Highlands Region to encourage a comprehensive regional approach to implementing the Highlands Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 6.g the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to enter into any and all agreements or contracts and execute any and all instruments to carry out any power, duty or responsibility under the Highlands Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Planning Act of 1985 (N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 et. seq.) created a State Planning Commission and an Office of Planning Advocacy for the purpose of establishing a cooperative planning process that involves the full participation of state, county and local governments; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State Planning Act states that New Jersey needs integrated and coordinated planning in order to conserve its natural resources, to revitalize its urban centers, to provide affordable housing and adequate public facilities at a reasonable cost, to promote equal social and economic opportunity for New Jersey’s citizens, and to prevent sprawl and promote the suitable use of land; and,

**WHEREAS**, the primary duty and responsibility of the State Planning Commission under the State Planning Act is the preparation of a “State Development and Redevelopment Plan”; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State Planning Act provides that the State Planning Commission shall solicit and give due consideration to the plans, comments and advice of the Highlands Council, which will have an essential role in the development of the State Plan through its participation in the cross-acceptance process to be conducted under the Act; and,

**WHEREAS**, the cross-acceptance process is the primary vehicle under the Act for promoting vertical coordination and integration of state, county and local plans by affording county, municipal and state governments a full and open opportunity to be involved in reconciling inconsistencies between state and local policies; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council has concluded that it is appropriate, necessary and in the Highlands Council’s best interest to fully participate in the development of the State Plan through its full and active participation in the cross-acceptance process; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-5.j, no action authorized by the Highlands Council shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

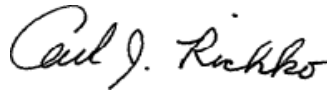
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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Highlands Council as follows:

1. That the Highlands Council is hereby authorized and directed to carry out the cross-acceptance process as a negotiating entity pursuant to the State Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 et. seq. and the State Planning Rules, N.J.A.C. 15:30 and any other rules promulgated by the State Planning Commission for this purpose; and
2. That the Highlands Council shall prepare a proposed work program and schedule for negotiating cross-acceptance and shall submit said work program and schedule to the New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy;

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.



Carl J. Richko, Chairman

<b>Vote on the Approval of This Resolution</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Councilmember Alstede			√			
Councilmember Bush			√			
Councilmember Dougherty						√
Councilmember Dressler			√			
Councilmember Francis	√		√			
Councilmember James			√			
Councilmember Sebetich						√
Councilmember Van Abs		√	√			
Councilmember Visioli			√			
Councilmember Vohden			√			
Chairman Richko			√			