

**RESOLUTION 2026-
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR CAMOIN 310 ASSOCIATES FOR ECONOMIC
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FIVE YEAR UPDATE**

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, Section 6.g of the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to enter into any and all agreements or contracts to effectuate the purposes of the Highlands Act; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2008, the Highlands Council adopted Resolution 2008-27 thereby adopting the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP), which became effective September 8, 2008; and

WHEREAS, in order to carry out its duties under the Highlands Act and the RMP, the Highlands Council is charged with creating sustainable communities and a sustainable economic future for the region; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Monitoring Program Recommendation Report, serving as the Council's six-year work plan, included a specific recommendation for the development of a "comprehensive economic development plan for the Highlands Region;" and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council did not have sufficient internal resources and expertise to complete an economic sustainability plan for the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2020-10, The Highlands Council awarded a contract to Camoin 310 Associates to draft and implement an Economic Sustainability Plan for the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, since the completion of the New Jersey Highlands Economic Sustainability Plan in March 2022, the economic landscape has evolved considerably. National and global market shifts have reshaped supply chains, housing demand has continued to change, manufacturing has experienced renewed momentum through onshoring and domestic investment, and consumer preferences have strengthened demand for outdoor recreation and place-based experiences. At the same time, new technologies and workforce trends have created both opportunities and challenges for communities across the Highlands; and

WHEREAS, nearly five years after the Plan's adoption, this is an ideal opportunity to evaluate progress and recognize the accomplishments of the Highlands Council and its partners. This effort is not intended to replace the existing Plan, but rather to build upon its strong foundation by updating key economic data, incorporating stakeholder perspectives, and refining implementation priorities to ensure the Plan remains a practical roadmap for the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Sustainability Plan Five Year Update will provide a current assessment of the regional economy and explore how changes have influenced the competitiveness of the region and the target industries identified in the original plan; and

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WHEREAS, Camoin 310 Associates will update the core economic indicators and target industry analysis, focusing on changes that have occurred since the original study. The analysis will examine employment, business establishment trends, earnings, workforce characteristics, gross regional product, and other key economic measures. Particular emphasis will be placed on evaluating the six target industries identified in the original plan to determine where growth has accelerated, where industries have remained stable, and where market conditions have shifted. The project is expected to take approximately 5 months for completion.

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council will utilize the RMP Implementation Fund for this contract; the fund is used to provide financial assistance for projects and initiatives that advance the implementation of the Highlands Regional Master Plan and its goals, policies, objectives, and recommended actions; 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 the expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve or take exception with same, in which case the action shall either become effective upon such approval or take no effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Highlands Council that the Executive Director, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized to issue a contract extension to Camoin 310 Associates for purposes of developing a Five Year Update to the Economic Sustainability Plan, in an amount not to exceed \$48,055.00

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, 2026.

Carl Richko, Chairman

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Vote on the Approval of Resolution	Motion		Second		Yes		No		Abstain		Absent
Councilmember Alstede											
Councilmember Amoroso											
Councilmember Basralian											
Councilmember Bush											
Councilmember Dougherty											
Councilmember Kibler											
Councilmember Koop											
Councilmember Le Frois											
Councilmember Marano											
Councilmember Oswald											
Councilmember Smith											
Councilmember Van Abs											
Councilmember Visioli											
Chairman Richko											