

## **Highlands nominees should be opposed in Senate**

*December 9, 2010*

The column by New Jersey Conservation Foundation Executive Director Michele Byers — "Keep off the Highlands Council," highlights the disturbing selection of unqualified candidates for the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council by Gov. Chris Christie. Beyond the concerns identified by Byers, the governor's slate is inappropriate in its lack of representation for the 4.6 million people and critical economic industries outside the region dependent on continued access to clean drinking water with only one nominee from the water user community.

The governor has the opportunity to appoint 10 new members to the council to further the resource protection goals established under the Highlands Act and is instead opting to play partisan politics and endanger our water supply. The Senate Judiciary Committee must not consider any appointments to the council until the governor presents a slate of strong, competent nominees who understand the resource capacity restraints of the region.

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