

The Star-Ledger

Extend Highlands Conservation Act

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Letters to the Editor/The Star-Ledger

The Highlands Region of New Jersey will benefit from millions of dollars of funding to protect open space and drinking water supplies if Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th Dist.) is successful in passing an extension to the Highlands Conservation Act, introduced in Congress on Sept. 21.

The federal Highlands Conservation Act provides matching conservation funds through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a bipartisan and widely popular federal land conservation funding program that uses leasing revenues from offshore oil and gas activities.

Joining Frelinghuysen on this bill are colleagues from Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut. New Jersey congressmen Bill Pascrell (D-8th Dist.), Scott Garrett (R-5th Dist.) and Leonard Lance (R-7th Dist.) also have stepped up to help renew this essential funding source.

Continued funding through the Highlands Conservation Act will help toward ensuring the protection of drinking water supplies for 5.4 million New Jersey residents, 64 percent of the state's population, as well as the expansion of close-to-home recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat in northern New Jersey.

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