



NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COALITION

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: For immediate release

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The New Jersey Highlands Coalition is pleased that Governor Phil Murphy has made three strong recommendations for appointment to the New Jersey Highlands Council.

Wynn timer-Fred Victor Hines, Co-Chair of the Newark Environmental Commission, will bring to the Council for the first time a much needed perspective from the City of Newark, which has an enormous investment in the clean water resources of the New Jersey Highlands. Newark owns and operates five reservoirs that supply drinking water to multiple towns in northern New Jersey and maintains 35,000 acres of some of the State's most pristine forest to protect the quality of the water supply. With a background in community outreach and environmental justice, Ms. Hinds is also the Community Outreach & Engagement Manager for the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).

Dr. Daniel Van Abs is one of the most respected water resource professionals in New Jersey. Presently an Assistant Professor of Practice for Water, Society and Environment, Professor Van Abs lectures on water resources, water infrastructure, environmental policy, and regional water supply management. Dr. Van Abs has over 30 years of public and non-profit sector experience developing and implementing innovative programs in watershed protection, water supply management, water quality control, open space planning, land use management and wastewater management. From 2007 to 2012 Dr. Van Abs was the Senior Director for Planning & Science at the Highlands Council and he was a key contributor in the development of the Highlands Regional Master Plan. Dr. Van Abs earned his BS in Environmental Studies from Cook College, Rutgers University and his PhD in Environmental Science and Policy from the State University of New York. Dr. Van Abs is a Licensed Professional Planner in the State of New Jersey.

William (Bill) Kibler has been Director of Policy for the Raritan Headwaters Association, based in Bedminster, NJ since 2011. Mr. Kibler advocates on the Association's behalf at municipal, county, regional, state and federal levels for protective environmental policies and sound land use planning for a 470 square mile

watershed that spans 37 municipalities in 3 counties. Mr. Kibler is a regular participant at Highlands Council meetings and he is very familiar with the Council's work, the Highlands Regional Master Plan and the Highlands Act. Mr. Kibler is a volunteer fireman in the Highlands community of Califon and has served as Fire Chief. Mr. Kibler served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and he is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he earned a BSc in Environmental Science. Mr. Kibler earned his law degree at the Syracuse University College of Law. Mr. Kibler is a member of the New Jersey Council of Watershed Associations' Steering Committee and the New Jersey Section of American Water Resources Association.

Julia Somers, Executive Director of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition said, "These three excellent candidates will add tremendous knowledge and support to the Council's important work. We thank the Governor for making such thoughtful, stellar appointment recommendations, and look forward to their being approved quickly by the State Senate. It's gratifying to know such great candidates are prepared to work on behalf of their home State. I am sure they will be welcomed by the Council."

Elliott Ruga, Policy and Communications Director said, "We are very pleased that Governor Murphy followed through on his campaign promise to appoint to the Highlands Council members who fundamentally support the goals and objectives of the Highlands Act. These thoughtfully chosen individuals will enliven the Highlands Council with knowledge, experience, new perspectives and a commitment to meeting the region's challenges to protect its valuable natural, cultural and people resources."

"If we have one regret," continued **Julia Somers**, "it is the retirement of **Tracy Carluccio** from the Highlands Council. Tracy has been the uncompromising conscience of the natural resource protection aspect of the Highlands Council's responsibilities. No one knew the Highlands Act and the Highlands Regional Master Plan, and what the Highlands Council represents to the people of New Jersey, better than Tracy. Tracy is by far, the longest serving Council member, appointed when the Council was formed in 2004. After 15 years serving on the Highlands Council, we owe her a great deal of thanks. And we will miss her dearly. "

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About the New Jersey Highlands Coalition

The New Jersey Highlands Coalition (www.njhighlandscoalition.org) is the only non-profit organization whose entire focus is on protecting the pristine aquifers, lakes and rivers, rugged forested ridges, rolling farmlands, abundant wildlife, historic treasures and diverse recreational opportunities found in the New Jersey Highlands, the State's prized piece of the Appalachian Mountain chain. We are made up of more than 100 member organizations, small and large, local, regional, statewide and national as well as over 700 individual members who have joined together to safeguard and defend this critical area. The Coalition is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.