



Revive the NY–NJ Watershed and Benefit Millions

119th Congress

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Tonko (D-NY), Rep. Malliotakis (R-NY), Rep. Velázquez (D-NY) Rep. Senator Booker (D-NJ), and Senator Gillibrand (D-NY)

The NY-NJ Watershed is a Regional & National Resource

- The NY-NJ Watershed includes the watersheds that drain into the NY-NJ Harbor, their associated estuaries, and the Harbor itself.
- Restoring water quality in the Harbor Estuary so it fully supports recreation and aquatic life would deliver **up to \$1.4 billion in annual value** to local households.
- Wetlands in the region provide substantial **water quality and storm surge benefits**.
- Millions of Americans enjoy **health, quality of life, and property value benefits** from the trails, parks, beaches, and greenspaces within the watershed.

Urgent Restoration and more Community Access Needed

- **Hazardous waste, legacy chemicals, and partially treated or untreated wastewater** continue to diminish water quality in both major and minor rivers within the watershed.
- New York and New Jersey share nearly **500 miles of coastline** that are increasingly vulnerable to storm surges and rising sea levels.
- Too many communities still **lack adequate access to clean water, safe green spaces, and recreation opportunities**.

Congress Must Act Now to Protect this Vital System!

The New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act of 2025:

- **Establishes a new program**, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and modeled on other successful regional watershed restoration programs, to coordinate restoration efforts.
- **Ensures that restoration efforts follow science-based principles** to protect fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, increase public access to the watershed, mitigate flood risks, and develop public outreach and educational activities.
- **Creates a restoration grant program** for community-led restoration activities, prioritizing the needs of frontline communities experiencing environmental injustice.
- **Authorizes \$20,000,000 annually** for watershed restoration grants through Fiscal Year 2031.

This legislation would protect and restore our watersheds and estuaries, providing recreational and economic opportunities for millions of Americans!