



Saving America's Most Crowded Watershed

118th Congress

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

Supporting Organizations' Statements

"The reintroduction of the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act in the House and Senate is an exciting moment for the Hudson River and greater watershed. The program created by the bill will support projects that will help bring life back to our rivers—rewilding these areas through science-based restoration projects. It will support climate resilience, improve waterfront access, and environmental justice efforts. This support is essential, and long overdue. While other estuaries have received similar federal support for decades, the Hudson has missed out. Riverkeeper thanks our Congressional supporters for this investment in the Hudson's future, and we look forward to working to make sure our waterways receive the federal funding they deserve."

❖ **Jeremy Cherson, Riverkeeper Senior Manager of Government Affairs**

"The Hudson River and the watersheds of New York and New Jersey provide enormous economic and environmental benefits not just to the region but the entire nation. Along with supplying the country's most densely populated regions with clean water, they host some of the busiest U.S. ports and provide opportunities for tourism and outdoor recreation. This legislation will inform and guide management and conservation actions for decades to come through targeted federal involvement that listens to and builds upon the hard work of local communities. Scenic Hudson congratulates Congressman Paul Tonko for his exceptional leadership in reintroducing the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act through the House of Representatives and looks forward to working with his colleagues in the House and Senate to pass the legislation."

❖ **Andy Bicking, Director of Government Relations and Public Policy for Scenic Hudson**

"The NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act presents a transformative opportunity for historic investment in urban restoration. Investing in our shared waterways is vital to protecting our economic and environmental future and will put our region on par with several other watershed programs across the country. As the code red alarm bells continue to ring, it has never been more urgent to accelerate efforts to help communities manage more frequent flooding events and the increasingly devastating impacts of the climate crisis. NY/NJ Baykeeper extends gratitude to House champions, particularly Congressman Tonko for his leadership and commitment to the reintroduction of this critical legislation."

❖ **Greg Remaud, CEO and Baykeeper, NY/NJ Baykeeper**

“Clean water, thriving nature, and close-to-home recreation are fundamental to healthy communities. The NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act will help ensure that residents and communities continue to receive those benefits, even in the face of our changing climate. We are grateful to Congressman Tonko for advancing this landmark legislation.”

❖ **Robert Pirani, Senior Director for Policy and Engagement at the Hudson River Foundation**

“The New York-New Jersey metropolitan region is home to both our nation’s most populous urban areas and a diverse array of critical natural resources that clean our air and water, cool hot urban areas, reduce flooding and create habitat. As we adapt to a changing climate, the New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act would provide a tremendous opportunity to restore these natural resources, which can repair historic harms that are evidenced by the impacts of storms like Hurricane Sandy and Ida.”

❖ **Kate Boicourt, director for New York-New Jersey’s Climate Resilient Coasts and Watersheds program at Environmental Defense Fund**

“The New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act would provide a critical injection of federal funding to some of the nation’s most diverse harbors and watersheds. These waterways face major challenges from climate change, like flooding and sea level rise, as well as a need for greater restoration and water quality improvements. Waterfront Alliance is grateful for Congressman Tonko’s continued leadership on this legislation, which prioritizes advancing coastal resilience, addressing environmental justice, promoting public access, and improving water quality across watersheds like the Hudson, Mohawk, Raritan, Passaic, Hackensack, and Bronx rivers.”

❖ **Cortney Koenig Worrall, President and CEO, Waterfront Alliance**

“The NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act is a monumental step to help ensure we are protecting and restoring the Hudson, Passaic and Raritan rivers and the greater watersheds. This legislation will help to not only revitalize the environment and the economy that depends on it but will invest in safeguarding the key natural resources in the area. TNC-NJ applauds the Congressional sponsors for acknowledging and working towards protecting and restoring these iconic watersheds.”

❖ **Eric Olsen, Director of Conservation at The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey**

“Representing hunters and anglers who rely on public lands and waters in the region, we support the New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act and the benefits it would have for fish and wildlife habitat. This bipartisan legislation would coordinate the management of this critically important watershed similar to successful, existing federal partnerships across the nation. By ensuring a healthy watershed, improving conservation values for fish and wildlife, and increasing public access to waterways, future generations of sportsmen and women will continue to enjoy quality outdoor opportunities.”

❖ **New York and New Jersey Chapters of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers**

“We're grateful for Rep. Tonko's leadership and responding to concerns raised by NPCA and park advocates throughout the region that will help restore New York-New Jersey waterways and 13 national parks within them. This critical funding will increase environmental education opportunities in our national parks. It's a win-win to support local economies with new green jobs, protect and restore critical habitat for wildlife, and mitigate climate induced flood risks for front-line communities.”

❖ **Lauren Cosgrove, Senior Program Manager for the National Parks Conservation Association**

Supporting Organizations

Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Audubon New York, American Littoral Society, Ausable River Association, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Billion Oyster Project, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, Bronx River Alliance, Center for NYC Neighborhoods, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Clean Ocean Action, Coney Island Beautification Project, Environmental Defense Fund Action, Environment New Jersey, Environmental Advocates of NY, Friends of Hudson River Park, Friends of Liberty State Park, Future City, Inc., Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Groundwork Elizabeth, Hackensack Riverkeeper, Hudson River Audubon Society of Westchester, Hudson River Fisherman's Association, Hudson River Foundation, Hudson River Yacht & Boat Club Association, Ironbound Community Corporation, Jersey City Parks Coalition, La Casa de Don Pedro, Land Trust Alliance, MnM Consulting, National Parks Conservation Association, National Wildlife Federation, Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, New Jersey Future, NewarkDIG (Doing Infrastructure Green), Northern Catskills Audubon Society, New York City Audubon, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, New York League of Conservation Voters, NYC H2O, NYC Soil & Water Conservation District, Newark Green Team, Newtown Creek Alliance, NJ Audubon, Ocean Bay Community Development, Onondaga Audubon, Orange County Audubon Society, Rebuild by Design, Regional Plan Association, Regional Ready Rockaway, Schoharie River Center, South Shore Audubon Society, South Ward Environmental Alliance, Surfrider Foundation, The Nature Conservancy – New Jersey, The Nature Conservancy – New York, The Passaic River Coalition, The Trust for Public Land, The Watershed Institute, VOLKsHouse LLC, Waterfront Alliance