

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2022
RESOLUTION REGARDING NY-NJ WATERSHED PROTECTION ACT: H.R. 4677

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, held via videoconference in said Town on the __ day of _____, 2022, at _____ o'clock P.M., prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bettez, and upon roll being called, the following roll was taken:

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____
Council Member Alex Baer	_____	_____
Council Member Esi Lewis	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____

The following resolution was offered by Council Member _____ who moved its adoption, seconded by Council Member _____, to wit:

WHEREAS, New York Congressman Tonko has proposed the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act, a unique federal investment program to authorize \$50 million of federal funds to protect and restore all watersheds, including the Hudson River Watershed, that flow into New York-New Jersey Harbor and

WHEREAS, The Act has unanimous support among the Hudson Valley’s Congressional delegation; and,

WHEREAS, the Act would provide benefits to diverse stakeholders such as the protection of fisheries and wildlife, conservation of natural resources and public and private lands, critical urban greenspaces, ocean and coastal resources, and various opportunities to improve the quality of life for community members throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz is part of the most densely populated and economically important regions in the country, the proposed NY-NJ Watershed Act will provide enormous economic and environmental benefits locally, regionally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, watersheds provide drinking water, tourism and outdoor recreation, economic opportunities, as well as sustain fisheries, critical wildlife and provide vital infrastructure from flooding and rising sea levels; and

WHEREAS, the Act would provide matching funds to achieve the goals of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Hudson River Estuary Program, a state program that has greatly benefitted Hudson Valley communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Act would fund shoreline management and restoration within the watersheds,

WHEREAS, as an elected body tasked with protection and safeguarding irreplaceable water-connected resources and nature-based flood hazard mitigation measures that are essential to protect human life and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, this Act would direct the Secretary of the Interior to enhance collaboration and coordinate restoration activities at all levels of government to protect fish and wildlife habitats, endangered species, improve water quality, increase public access to the estuary, mitigate flood risks, and develop public outreach and educational activities; and

WHEREAS, many residents of the region of the NY-NJ Watershed live in communities lacking environmental justice, where access to and enjoyment of fish, wildlife, clean water, and other natural resources have been impaired or compromised, federal funding is necessary to mitigate these long overdue environmental and social issues; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz would benefit from the Act as it would establish beneficial programs and award grants to help fund valuable restoration projects in our local community; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz is a cornerstone in which its residents depend on and the region relies on for its resources to provide prosperity throughout the state, therefore, the Town of New Paltz must uphold its duty to protect the community’s access to drinking water and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz has an opportunity to be a social and environmental leader of the state, by supporting the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act, we may lead by example and facilitate much needed change;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz supports the passing of the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act.

<u>VOTE</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Alex Baer	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Esi Lewis	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____	_____

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.