

TRENTON UPDATE:
*AND I THOUGHT A FRIENDLIER
ADMINISTRATION WAS GOING TO MAKE MY
JOB EASIER!*

**Elliott Ruga, Policy & Communications Director
New Jersey Highlands Coalition**

**ANJEC Congress
October 4, 2019**





YIKES, AN OPEN SPACE VICTORY!



June 26, Governor Murphy signs S2920 into law, which was passed unanimously by the Legislature on June 20, permanently establishing the allocation of constitutionally dedicated open space, farmland, historic preservation and stewardship funding, which implements the 2014 ballot measure that passed with a 65% majority.



NJ GREEN AMENDMENT update

Lead organizations:



More organizations needed to make the initiative a priority!



75 organizations support passage of a New Jersey Green Amendment including:

ANJEC

Raritan Headwaters Association

Raritan Riverkeeper

New Jersey Conservation Foundation

Pinelands Preservation Alliance

GreenFaith

The Sourlands Conservancy

Musconetcong Watershed Association

Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance

Food & Water Watch

New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

New Jersey Environmental Lobby

The Watershed Institute

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey

Passaic River Coalition

New York/New Jersey Baykeeper

Hackensack Riverkeeper

Raritan Valley Community College

Promote among your members. Join us for monthly public webinar.



NEW JERSEY'S GREEN AMENDMENT

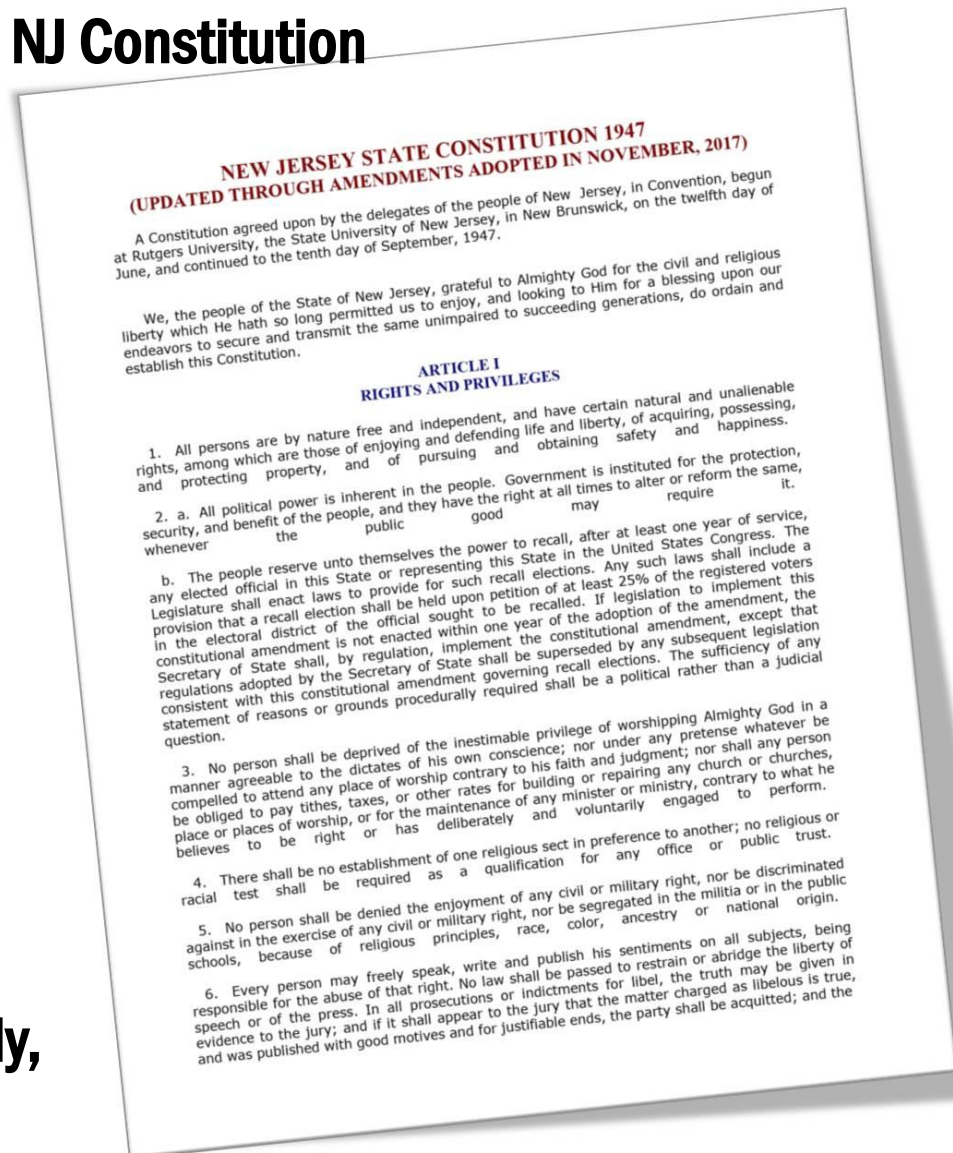
In the Bill of Rights, Article I of the NJ Constitution

**Recognizes as inalienable,
The right to:**

- Clean water
- Clean air
- Stable climate
- Healthy environment

Self executing

**Entitled to same constitutional
recognition and protection as
life, liberty, property, free assembly,
religion, etc.**





NEW JERSEY'S GREEN AMENDMENT

SCR185

Greenstein, Linda R. as Primary Sponsor
Bateman, Christopher as Primary Sponsor
Codey, Richard J. as Co-Sponsor
Vitale, Joseph F. as Co-Sponsor
Cruz-Perez, Nilsa as Co-Sponsor
Diegnan, Patrick J., Jr. as Co-Sponsor
Turner, Shirley K. as Co-Sponsor
Weinberg, Loretta as Co-Sponsor
Gopal, Vin as Co-Sponsor
Gill, Nia H., Esq. as Co-Sponsor

10/15/18 passed out of Senate Env (4y; 1abs)
Referred to Sen Budget & Appropriations

ACR85

Pinkin, Nancy J. as Primary Sponsor
McKeon, John F. as Primary Sponsor
Benson, Daniel R. as Primary Sponsor
Jasey, Mila M. as Co-Sponsor
Zwicker, Andrew as Co-Sponsor
Reynolds-Jackson, AS Co-snsor
Mukherji, Raj as Co-Sponsor
Vainieri Huttie, Valerie as Co-Sponsor
Carter, Linda S. as Co-Sponsor
Giblin, Thomas P. as Co-Sponsor
Holley, Jamel C. as Co-Sponsor
Caputo, Ralph R. as Co-Sponsor
Murphy, Carol A. as Co-Sponsor
Downey, Joann as Co-Sponsor
Houghtaling, Eric as Co-Sponsor
Karabinchak, Robert J. as Co-Sponsor
Sumter, Shavonda E. as Co-Sponsor
Speight, Shanique as Co-Sponsor
Lopez, Yvonne as Co-Sponsor
Chaparro, Annette as Co-Sponsor
Tucker, Cleopatra G. as Co-Sponsor
Wimberly, Benjie E. as Co-Sponsor
McKnight, Angela V. as Co-Sponsor
Danielsen, Joe as Co-Sponsor

Referred to Assembly Ag & Nat Resources

The 3-D chess challenge of Highlands appointments:

Thirteen members appointed by the Governor;

Eight members, at least one from each of the seven Highlands counties; of those, no more than four of the same political party; at least three shall be county officials holding elective office when appointed; the remaining are municipal elected officials; of those, two residents from the county that has the largest population (Morris), of whom no more than one shall be of the same political party;

Plus seven residents of the State with expertise, knowledge, or experience in water quality protection, natural resources protection, environmental protection, agriculture, forestry, land use, or economic development, and at least four of them shall be property owners, business owners, or farmers in the Highlands Region or residents or nonresidents of the Highlands Region who benefit from or consume water from the Highlands Region.

In addition to the thirteen, and with the qualifications above, one shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and one shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

(Problem: Of the seven “public members”, there is no prohibition against holding elected office!)

Governor's response to our advocacy:

Highlands

- Designating **Carl Richko** Chair of Highlands Council
- Support for hiring **Lisa Plevin** as Executive Director
- Nomination of **Bill Kibler**
- Nomination of **Dan Van Abs**
- Nomination of **Wynnie-Fred Victor Hinds**
- Meeting this week with NJHC on reminder of "slate"

Pinelands

- Nomination of **Kelly Mooij** (voluntarily withdrawn)
- Nomination of **Jennifer Coffey**

Remaining steps

- New Pinelands Commission Executive Director
- Senatorial "courtesy"
- Hearing and approval by Senate Judiciary Committee
- Simple majority approval by full Senate
- Full slate of Highlands/Pinelands appointments

As clean water advocates we have accomplished so much in improving water quality in the past decades. Yet unmanaged, or poorly managed stormwater remains a persistent and significant challenge. With the recent stormwater utilities legislation, we achieved a breakthrough with a proven, equitable and effective response to this challenge.

However, the climate driven phenomenon of HABS, for which the establishment of a stormwater utility is an ideally suited response, has exposed a major faultline between clean water advocates and the far right.

HABS caused an economic crisis this summer. Until we find a path forward HABS will return as an annual scourge upon the New Jersey summer.