

Rothman Statement On House Passage Of Highlands Conservation Act

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Measure Authorizes \$100 Million To Help Preserve
2 Million Acres Of Open Space In Four States

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today issued the following statement after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Highlands Conservation Act. Rothman is an original sponsor of the bill, which Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ11) authored. The measure authorizes \$100 million in federal funds over ten years for the preservation of the 2 million acres that comprise the Highlands in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut.

"Today's passage of the Highlands Conservation Act is an important step forward in our ongoing effort to save New Jersey's precious open space and enhance the quality of life for residents. New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation, which is why it is so important that we think ahead and recognize the importance of preserving our remaining acres of open space. By protecting the 2 million acres of the Highlands, which extend through our neighboring states as well, we are creating an environmental legacy for future generations, safeguarding our area's drinking water, and ensuring that our children and our children's children have places to explore and opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors.

"The Highlands Conservation Act is a testament to the foresight of the bill's author, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ11), who recognizes the importance of saving New Jersey's open space. I have seen Congressman Frelinghuysen's commitment to the preservation of undeveloped acres firsthand as a colleague of his on the House Appropriations Committee. He worked in a bipartisan fashion to garner support for his measure, and as a result, this measure has now passed the House. Congressman Frelinghuysen's leadership to protect the Highlands will truly help New Jersey live up to its namesake as the Garden State.

"Getting Congress to authorize \$100 million for the preservation of the Highlands is not only a victory for our quality of life and the environment, but it is also a victory for New Jersey's taxpayers who will be spared from having to pay for the full cost of these preservation efforts. I am pleased that I was able to help get this bill passed in the House and look forward to working with Congressman Frelinghuysen on the Appropriations Committee to bring back federal dollars to preserve New Jersey's open space."

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