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Passes Amendment to Include Meadowlands in Corps of Engineers' Restoration Study

Washington, DC -- Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) used his position as a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee to win a victory to save the entire 8,400 undeveloped acres in the Hackensack Meadowlands. Rothman passed an amendment to the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee bill, requiring a study of how best to restore the open space now left in the Hackensack Meadowlands. Rothman added this provision to the Army Corps of Engineers' Hudson-Raritan Estuary Restoration Project.

"Today we have won the first of many battles to preserve the last undeveloped parcels of the Hackensack Meadowlands, one of the few large tracts of open space remaining in Northern New Jersey," Rothman said. "In order to save this land from development and then to clean up and restore it as part of an open space environmental park or preserve, we must first explore all the many different resources available. This amendment will allow the Corps of Engineers to develop a comprehensive plan about how to best save and restore the open space remaining in the Meadowlands."

Rothman, who was born and raised in Bergen County, has made preservation of the Hackensack Meadowlands one of his highest priorities, and recently held a summit with conservation groups as well as federal, state, and local agencies to discuss how best to preserve this open space. He said he will take today's success to the next Meadowlands summit meeting within the next few weeks.

"Preserving the Meadowlands will not be done in one day, and it will not be done by one federal, state or local agency," Rothman said. "However, working together, I am hopeful we can realize the dream of protecting, cleaning up and preserving all the remaining open space in the Meadowlands for future generations."

The Corps of Engineers' Hudson-Raritan Estuary Restoration Project provides environmental restoration feasibility studies to identify, select and evaluate solutions for estuary-wide ecosystem restoration projects. Currently the project involves 13 sites in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. Under the bill the entire 8,400 acres of open space in the Hackensack Meadowlands will be examined for restoration and preservation.

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[Go back](#)