



New Jersey Highlands Coalition

Action Alert

In the Highlands we have particular interest in seeing that NJN's work continues. NJN's environmental reporter, Ed Rogers, has covered the issues of concern in the Highlands, with depth and regularity that is seen nowhere else. NJN has covered the broad issues too, presented in world class documentaries such as "Highlands Rediscovered", "Race for Open Space", and "Morristown: Where America Survived".

Governor Christie has made a deal with WNET/Channel 13 to take control of New Jersey's only State-wide broadcast TV network on July 1. It's a bad deal for New Jersey. You probably don't know that WNET is licensed to operate out of Newark. Yet it has never in its history committed its resources to this State. Within its coverage area, the NY/NJ metropolitan area, New Jersey has the lion's share of the viewing population. Yet WNET, with all of its news, public affairs and cultural programming, produces absolutely no programs that have an emphasis on New Jersey. The few programs it does air, such as NJN Nightly News and Caucus: New Jersey, are produced elsewhere. WNET has traditionally looked upon New Jersey as nothing more than a minor borough of New York City, or an outlier county. In the terms of the proposed sale, WNET would only be required to provide 20 hours of New Jersey-centric programming out of its 168-hour broadcast week. All of those programs, too, would be produced elsewhere.

New Jersey residents will significantly fund the new broadcasting entity for the first few years of operation. If the operation fails to become self-supporting, WNET is free to walk away. Not only will we have given away the store, we will be left holding the bag.

Please consider the following appeal from our partner, NJ Sierra:

Help Save NJN!

We cannot allow NJN to go dark. The Christie Administration wants to pull the plug on NJN and tomorrow the Assembly will be voting to block that deal. ACR201 (Diegan) is a resolution to disapprove the contract with Public Media NJ, Inc. the company who will be taking over NJN. For years millions of New Jersey residents tune into NJN every night for their news coverage and we deserve true, unbiased coverage. Call or email your Assembly Representative telling them to support ACR201 and keep the public in public television!

NJN is owned by all of us and fulfills its mission every day to educate, inform and entertain the people of New Jersey. It enhances our lives and holds the government accountable. There is no other voice like it for the citizens of New Jersey. NJN airs programs that cannot be found anywhere else and covers issues overlooked by other television or radio stations.

Please contact your State Assembly representative, asking them to vote in favor of ACR201 to save NJN!

Thank you for all that you do!



Sincerely,

New Jersey Sierra Club, Trenton Staff

Talking Points

- We are going to lose local programming and there will be no local news, shows like Reporters Round Table or On the Record that inform us about what is happening in Trenton will be no longer. The studio will also be located in New York City not in New Jersey anymore.
- Similar deal was made between Channel 13 and LIW on Long Island. They have seen no local programs or local news instead have become a pale copy of reruns for Channel 13.

- As of July 1, NJN employees will be laid off and new station will have 15 to 20 people compared to the 125 of the original NJN staff. They are going to lose a professional staff that understands New Jersey and they are not going to be replaced.
- NJN will no longer be a professional, independent network. Instead political agendas will be controlling the content. For example, David Koch is on the board of Channel 13. Koch has been a major funder of efforts to fight climate change regulations.
- New Jersey is going to subsidize this new deal with \$4 million, including federal funding, that should be going toward keeping NJN part of New Jersey.

The New Jersey Highlands Coalition represents a diverse network of organizations - small and large, local, regional, statewide and national - and individuals with the common goal to protect, enhance and restore the New Jersey Highlands and to preserve the quality and quantity of drinking water both for the 850,000 people in the Highlands as well as the more than 5.4 million people in surrounding areas who depend on Highlands water. For more information visit our [website](#), like us on  and follow us on .