



## New Jersey Highlands Coalition September Update

### Highlands Council Nominees

Michael Dressler (D - Bergen County Surrogate) and Bruce James (D - Passaic County Freeholder Director) joined the Highlands Council for their first meeting on August 3rd -- which proved to be quite eventful.

Our public rally, held before the Highlands Council meeting, was a success! Approximately thirty supporters, including NJ Senator Bob Smith and NJ Assemblyman John McKeon, joined us in supporting the Highlands Act and the Regional Master Plan. After the rally many more people attended the Council Meeting to show the Council that members of the public care about and support the conformance process.

### Conformance

After the excitement from the rally subsided, the Highlands Council made short work of approving the petitions for Hackettstown, Pohatcong, Oxford, Wharton, and Alpha bringing the total number of conformed towns to 28.

The next Highlands Council meeting is scheduled for September 15th at 4:00 PM. The Borough of Ringwood and the Townships of Sparta, Hardyston, and Lebanon have had their petitions posted on the Highlands Council website, but it is unclear whether or not they will be reviewed by the Council at the upcoming meeting.

### Energy Issues

We have reviewed the draft Energy Master Plan and have submitted oral and written comments. The proposals in this plan will undercut a successful solar program in New Jersey (second only to California!) and enable the development of infrastructure related to hydraulic fracturing.

Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company has issued a Notice of Intent and is currently in the pre-filing stages with the FERC to construct the Northeast Supply Link which would be a 42" diameter pipeline along an existing right-of-way that holds a 24" pipe and a 36" pipe in Clinton, Franklin, and Union townships in the Highlands. We are working with and supporting new affiliate member, Fight the Pipe, opposing the construction of this pipeline.

We are also following and commenting on the development of another pipeline loop, the Northeast Upgrade Project proposed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline. This loop will include the construction of a 30" diameter pipeline through numerous tracts of protected land, including land preserved through the Green Acres Program.

## Upcoming Events

For current listings of Highlands-wide events, go to the "Highlands Events" section of our [website](#).

*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](#).*

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