

## **Gov. Chris Christie should get behind the Highlands**

*By Letters to the Editor/The Star-Ledger*

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Gov. Chris Christie says he is trying to improve New Jersey's economy and fix our budget shortfall. He also says he wants to protect the Highlands, which provides clean water for 5.4 million people and most of New Jersey's major industries.

I hope the governor will not follow the example of so many of his predecessors who gambled away our financial security and played politics with our future by attempting a short-term fix to our budget woes while ignoring the long-term consequences to the health of our state.

Clean water is essential to the health of our families — now and for our future. It is essential for the health of our economy — now and for our future. The governor should make it clear that he will protect our future by protecting the Highlands. A public statement that he will not compromise Highlands' protections would be an excellent start.

Future generations can either praise us for protecting their clean water or curse us for squandering their legacy. No water, no future.

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