



TOWN OF KEARNY

HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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Hon. Alberto G. Santos
Mayor

Stephen D. Marks
Town Administrator

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Chair
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources Committee
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cliff Bentz, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for the New Jersey-New York
Watershed Protection Act (H.R. 4677)**

Dear Chair Hoffman:

Please accept this letter of support for the New Jersey/New York Watershed Act (H.R. 4677) and the many environmental justice, natural restoration, coastal resiliency, green and grey stormwater/CSO infrastructure, tourism and economic benefits it will bring to the urban core of NJ/NY Harbor region as well as the greater watershed at large.

The Town of Kearny is an environmental justice community of 42,000 people nestled between the cities of Newark and Jersey City in northern New Jersey. The Town of Kearny is also a peninsula located at the confluence of the Hackensack River, the Passaic River and Newark Bay. I am pleased that the environmental needs of urban communities, like Kearny, historically absent in large conservation-oriented plans, are at the center of this region-wide legislation. This broad equitable approach will help tackle large-scale challenges like flooding, sea level rise, stormwater management, non-point source pollution, combined sewer overflow elimination and habitat protection while improving, strengthening and uniting rural and suburban upstream communities with urban downstream communities.

The Town of Kearny supports green infrastructure projects which advance urban environmental sustainability, habitat restoration and improve public access and recreational opportunities which will improve the quality of life for our residents. Among the highest profile projects is the proposed Essex Hudson Greenway, a newly acquired State Park and rails-to-trails opportunity located in New Jersey's most urbanized and densely populated communities which will one day be on par with New York City's Highline and will connect inner city residents with the recreational opportunities and scenic vistas of the New Jersey Meadowlands region and the Hudson River waterfront. The proposed legislation is supportive of the preservation and natural restoration efforts as outlined above.

NAMED FOR A GALLANT LEADER
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

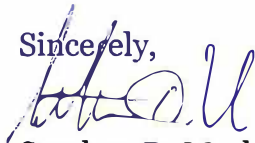
January 20, 2022

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There are also many potential shoreline resiliency and habitat restoration projects along the community's miles of shoreline and waterfronts that could benefit from Projects partnerships stemming the NJ/NY Watershed.

I am also very pleased that local environmental and advocacy groups like the Jersey City Parks Coalition, Friends of Liberty State Park, Newark's South Ward Environmental Alliance and regional allies like NJ/NY Baykeeper have played a significant role in shaping and advancing this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Marks
Town Administrator

C: heather.pacheco@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Chair, Committee on Natural Resources

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural

Resources The Honorable Paul Tonko, Member, Committee on Natural Resources

Greg Remaud, NY /NJ Baykeeper