ANTHONY S. PERRY Mayor RICK W. HIBELL Deputy Mayor RYAN M. CLARKE Committee Member

KEVIN M SETTEMBRINO, AIA Committee Member KIMBERLY KRATZ Committee Member Township Hall, One Kings Highway Middletown, NJ 07748-2594

TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN



Organized December 14, 1667 "Pride in Middletown"

January 20, 2022

ANTHONY P. MERCANTANTE, P.P., AICP Township Administrator

HEIDI R. BRUNT, CMR, RMC/ MMC Township Clerk and Registrar

> Tel: (732) 615-2000 Fax: (732) 957-9090

www.middletownnj.org

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

Honorable Chair Hoffman,

On behalf of the Middletown Township Committee, I am writing in support the NY/NJ Watershed Act (H.R. 4677) and the many environmental natural restoration, coastal resiliency and stormwater management, tourism, and economic benefits it will bring to Middletown and the entire Hudson-Raritan Watershed.

Middletown is the most-populous municipality in Monmouth County and <u>the state's 16th largest municipality by</u> <u>population</u>. Located along the located alongside of the <u>Raritan Bay</u> within the <u>Raritan Valley region</u> in the <u>New York</u> <u>metropolitan area</u> and is one of the oldest sites of European settlement in New Jersey.

Our Township has a vast network of parks and open space, and also beach and coastal shoreline in our Belford and Leonardo communities. Coastal sites along in these communities have been identified as prime coastal resiliency and natural restoration sites in a joint planning process conducted by the Monmouth County Planning Department and US Naval Base Earle.

We believe that these sites would be ideal candidates projects for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the federal agencies charged with administering the programs associated with this legislation

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely