



Reviving the NY–NJ Watershed will Benefit Millions

119th Congress

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Tonko (D-NY), Rep. Malliotakis (R-NY), Rep. Velázquez (D-NY) Rep. Senator Booker (D-NJ), and Senator Gillibrand (D-NY)

Supporting Organizations' Statements

"The reintroduction of the New York–New Jersey Watershed Protection Act, fittingly announced on World Rivers Day, marks a long overdue opportunity to restore the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, and strengthen the entire watershed. This legislation will build resilience to extreme weather, expand waterfront access, and deliver benefits to both urban and rural communities. For decades, other iconic American waterways have received billions of dollars in federal support, while the Hudson and Mohawk have been left behind. Riverkeeper thanks Senators Booker, Gillibrand, Schumer, and Kim and Congressman Tonko for championing this effort, and we look forward to working together to finally secure the federal investment New York's rivers deserve."

❖ **Jeremy Cherson, Riverkeeper's Associate Director of Government Affairs.**

"The New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act would provide a critical and timely injection of funding to some of the country's most diverse watersheds. Congressman Tonko and Senator Booker's leadership on coastal resilience, public waterfront access, and improving water quality across watersheds like the Hudson, Mohawk, Raritan, Passaic, Hackensack, and Bronx Rivers is the bold leadership we need across the harbor region,"

❖ **Tyler Taba, Director of Resilience, Waterfront Alliance.**

The NY–NJ Watershed Protection Act represents a landmark commitment to restoring and safeguarding the Hudson, Passaic, and Raritan rivers, along with the greater watersheds that sustain our communities. This legislation will not only strengthen the health of our environment and the economy it supports but also ensure long-term protection of the region's most vital natural resources. The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey applauds Senator Booker and Congressman Tonko for their leadership in recognizing the importance of preserving and revitalizing these iconic waterways."

❖ **Eric Olsen, Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey**

"We're grateful for Sen. Booker and Rep. Tonko's leadership and response to concerns raised by NPCA and park advocates throughout the region that will help restore New York-New Jersey waterways and 13 national parks within them. This critical funding will support environmental education opportunities in our national parks. It's a win-win to bolster local economies with new jobs and a growing outdoor recreation industry while restoring critical habitat for wildlife and protecting communities from increasingly more frequent and severe floods."

❖ **Lauren Cosgrove, Northeast Campaign Director for the National Parks Conservation Association**

"Clean water, thriving nature, and close-to-home recreation are fundamental to healthy communities. The NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act will help ensure that residents and communities continue to receive those benefits, while they prepare for extreme weather. We are grateful to Congressman Tonko for advancing this landmark legislation."

❖ **Robert Pirani, Senior Director for Policy and Engagement at the Hudson River Foundation**

"The New York-New Jersey metropolitan region is home to both our nation's most populous urban areas and a diverse array of critical natural resources that clean our air and water, cool hot urban areas, reduce flooding and create habitat. As we adapt to a changing climate, the New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act would provide a tremendous opportunity to restore these natural resources, which can repair historic harms that are evidenced by the impacts of storms like Hurricane Sandy and Ida."

❖ **Kate Boicourt, director for New York-New Jersey's Climate Resilient Coasts and Watersheds program at Environmental Defense Fund**

"The Hudson River and the New York and New Jersey watersheds are vital resources, offering significant economic and environmental advantages to both the immediate area and the entire nation. They supply clean water to the most densely populated parts of the country, facilitate major U.S. port operations, and offer unmatched recreational and tourism opportunities. This legislation aims to direct future management and conservation efforts through focused federal participation that acknowledges and supports the efforts of local communities. Scenic Hudson commends Congressman Paul Tonko and Senator Booker for their outstanding leadership in reintroducing the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act and looks forward to collaborating with their colleagues in the House and Senate to ensure its passage."

❖ **Pete Lopez, Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy and Science for Scenic Hudson**

Other Organization Endorsements: New York League of Conservation Voters, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters.