

Ask Speaker Prieto to protect people, property, and the environment by posting ACR249 for a vote on December 3rd! And call or email your Assembly members to encourage them to **vote YES to ACR249!**

ACR249 would overturn a dangerous proposal by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to roll back water quality protections in its draft Flood Hazard Area Control Act (FHACA) regulations. Not only does this rule proposal threaten to make water dirtier, it also reduces protection that will place more people and development in areas that flood. Simply put, these rules, if adopted as written, would put more people in harm's way.

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association (SBMWA) believes NJDEP's rule proposal is contrary to the New Jersey's Flood Hazard Area Control Act; NJ's Water Pollution Control Act; NJ's Water Quality Planning Act; and even the Federal Clean Water Act. The FHACA rules should protect water quality and reduce the impacts of flooding on people and property but they do not. In fact, the rule proposal *loosens* standards while the NJDEP acknowledges that:

- NJ's dense population and development patterns contribute to periodic, severe and repetitive flooding.
- Flooding is the most frequent, destructive and costly natural hazard. Because of this, NJ residents and businesses are forced to file the second highest number of claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Over 90% of New Jersey's waters do not meet one or more water quality standards, which are set by NJ under the law and that the state is legally obligated to meet.

The New Jersey Senate agrees with our assessment. By an almost 2 to 1 margin they voted for a resolution, finding that the rule proposal goes against legislative intent. It is now the Assembly's turn to assert their oversight of NJDEP and the proposed Flood Hazard Area Control Act regulations. The Assembly needs to pass ACR249, sponsored by Assemblyman John McKeon and Assemblywoman Grace Spencer.

The first step is asking Speaker Prieto to post ACR249 for a vote on December 3rd. You can call his office at: 201-770-1303.

The second step is to call or email your Assembly person and urge them to support ACR249 and to demand that, on December 3rd, the full Assembly votes **Yes to ACR249**. Tell the legislature that NJ deserves cleaner water and less flooding.