



**Your water. Your environment. Your voice.**

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## Voting for Clean Water for New Jersey

**October 24, 2015 (Pennington, NJ)** – Yesterday, the New Jersey Senate voted for clean water and protecting families and voted to initiate a “legislative veto” to block the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s proposed Flood Hazard Rules. NJDEP’s proposed regulations would make it easier to build in flood fringe areas, and reduce the amount of mitigation required to reduce the impact of that building. The proposed regulations would allow more destruction of the buffer zones that protect water quality.

NJDEP has proposed amendments that would weaken current protections despite the fact that New Jersey ranks second in the country for flood disaster claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). NJDEP also should understand the importance of stream buffers in protecting water quality in a state where a majority of its waters do not meet water quality standards. Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association provided extensive comments opposing those rules to NJDEP and to the Senate Environment and Energy Committee.

“NJDEP was tasked by the legislature with protecting people from flooding and taking measures to maintain and enhance water quality. NJDEP’s proposed rules are contrary to those legislative directives,” said Mike Pisauo, Policy Director for the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association.

Senators Ray Lesniak, Bob Smith, Linda Greenstein and Nellie Pou sponsored Senate Concurrent Resolution 180 (SCR180). The concurrent resolution finds that DEP’s proposal is against legislative intent and should not be adopted. The Senate vote is an important victory and we thank all of the Senators that stood up for New Jersey, including: Shirley Turner, Linda Greenstein, Kip Bateman, and Bob Smith. It is now the Assembly turn to protect our waters and families by considering and passing a resolution in support of clean water.

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### **About the Watershed Association**

*The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association is dedicated to keeping Central New Jersey’s water clean, safe and healthy. Founded in 1949, the Watershed Association protects and restores water and the environment through conservation, advocacy, science and education.*