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TOWN OF GARDINER

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Town Hall Offices - 2340 Route 44/55 Gardiner NY 12525

Marybeth Majestic
Supervisor

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. -2022
NY-NJ WATERSHED PROTECTION ACT: H.R. 4677

Offered by Councilmember _____

WHEREAS, New York Congressman Tonko has proposed the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act, a unique federal investment program to authorize \$50 million of federal funds to protect and restore all watersheds, including the Hudson River Watershed, that flow into New York-New Jersey Harbor; and

WHEREAS, The Act has unanimous support among the Hudson Valley’s Congressional delegation; and

WHEREAS, the Act would provide benefits to diverse stakeholders such as the protection of wildlife, conservation of natural resources, critical greenspaces, ocean and coastal resources, and various opportunities to improve the quality of life for community members throughout the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gardiner is part of one of the most economically important regions in the country, such that the proposed Act will provide economic and environmental benefits locally, regionally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, watersheds provide drinking water, tourism and outdoor recreation, economic opportunities, as well as sustain fisheries, critical wildlife and provide vital infrastructure from flooding and rising sea levels; and

WHEREAS, the Act would provide matching funds to achieve the goals of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Hudson River Estuary Program, a state program that has greatly benefitted Hudson Valley communities; and

WHEREAS, this Act would direct the Secretary of the Interior to enhance collaboration and coordinate restoration activities at all levels of government to protect fish and wildlife habitats, endangered species, improve water quality, increase public access to the estuary, mitigate flood risks, and develop public outreach and educational activities; and

WHEREAS, portions of the residents of the NY-NJ Watershed live in communities lacking environmental justice, where access to and enjoyment of fish, wildlife, clean water, and other natural resources have been impaired or compromised, federal funding is necessary to mitigate these environmental and social issues; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gardiner would benefit from the Act as it would award grants to help fund valuable restoration projects in our local community; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gardiner government is a keystone on which its residents depend and on which the region relies, and which must uphold its duty to protect the community's access to drinking water and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gardiner has an opportunity to be a social and environmental leader of the state by supporting the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act, to lead by example, and to facilitate much needed change; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Gardiner hereby supports the passing of the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act.

Seconded by Councilmember _____ and carried.

Resolved and Executed at Gardiner, New York, this 3rd day of May, 2022.

Voted:

Supervisor Majestic

Councilmember Walls

Councilmember Carucci

Councilmember Wiegand

Councilmember Richman

MICHELLE L. MOSHER, TOWN CLERK