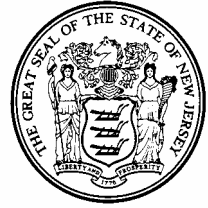


News From NJ Senate Democrats



Visit us on the World Wide Web at: www.njsendems.com

FOR RELEASE: Immediate
April 15, 2004

CONTACT: Kelley Heck
Tel: (609) 292-5215

--MEDIA ADVISORY--

PROPOSED HIGHLANDS PRESERVATION BOUNDARIES TO BE RELEASED FRIDAY

TRENTON - State Senate Environment Committee Chair and New Jersey Highlands preservation advocate Senator Bob Smith announced today that a **map of the proposed preservation area for the New Jersey Highlands will be released tomorrow, Friday, April 16th.**

"The boundaries are going to help clear up some misconceptions and confusion about our current preservation plans," said Senator Smith, D-Middlesex and Somerset. "The boundaries surround far less than the entire Highlands region, but are focused instead on critical areas for preserving the safety and quality of New Jersey's water supply."

Senator Smith said the boundaries will encompass approximately 390,000 acres, or slightly less than half of the 800,000 acres of highlands which stretch across 88 New Jersey municipalities and supply water to 16 of New Jersey's 21 counties and 292 of the state's municipalities. The need for a preservation plan for certain areas of the Highlands has become more and more urgent in recent years, as overdevelopment has threatened the region's precious natural resources.

The boundaries will be available from the New Jersey Office of Legislative Service (OLS) at noon tomorrow. Copies of the boundaries can be requested by contacting the OLS Environment Section at (609) 292-7676.

As part the Highlands preservation process, Senator Smith will be participating in a **fourth public hearing on the Highlands tonight, Thursday, April 15th, at 7:00 p.m., at Voorhees High School in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County. #**

