



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEW JERSEY

**Letter to the Editor Concerning ACR249
12/10/2015**

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing harmful revisions to the Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules, the Coastal Zone Management Rules, and the Stormwater Management Rules. The League of Women Voters is alerting residents to this impending threat to our drinking water and requesting action.

One of several rule changes is a proposal to roll back protections against flooding and allow more stream buffer vegetation to be cleared, placing more people and development in flood areas and putting more residents in harm's way.

Buffers are critical. They not only provide protection from rising waters, but also help remove contaminants from stormwater before they reach sensitive headwater streams that feed our reservoirs.

NJ last adopted a Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) twenty years ago. It is dangerous and imprudent to propose consequential rule changes without an updated Plan to evaluate our water supplies and future needs. Any revision should take into consideration the increased development in our watersheds since adoption of the dated WSMP.

Cutting red tape shouldn't mean we place people in harm's way and risk the quality of our water supply, but that is precisely what the DEP's proposed self-certification and loosely defined mitigation rules will do.

ACR249, a resolution that will soon come before the NJ Assembly for a vote, orders the DEP to rewrite or withdraw the proposed harmful rules. The companion resolution has already been passed in the Senate. The League of Women Voters calls on the Assembly to vote yes on ACR249 and send these regulations back to the DEP.

The League is calling upon the public to contact your Assembly members today and ask them to reject the DEP proposal with a yes vote on ACR249. Contact information can be found at www.nileg.state.nj.us or by calling the League at 1-800-792-VOTE (8683).