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June 6, 2018

The Honorable Daryl D. Metcalfe
Chairman-State Government Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
144 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202012
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Metcalfe and Committee Members:

As I understand, the House State Government Committee will hold a hearing on June 11, 2016, to receive testimony from individuals and entities that are regulated by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). The Committee is investigating concerns regarding the impact of DRBC policies and actions on business growth and economic vitality in the basin and the rights of individual property owners within the basin.

Over the past several years, public and private drinking water wells in Bucks and Montgomery counties have been shut down due to contamination from PFASs due to the release by the military in the form of firefighting foam. As a result, the Warminster Municipal Authority, located in the district I serve, has reduced their well water production. To meet customer demand, greater quantities of water are now being purchased from North Wales Water Authority (NWWA). The percentage of water purchased has risen significantly from 150,000 gallons per day to 1,200,000 gallons per day. Over 95% of NWWA water is sourced directly from the Delaware River.

The NWWA is regulated by the DRBC and as such has not been encumbered by any policies or actions of the Commission- even with the sudden sharp increase in demand for clean, safe water, for the affected communities. The programs executed by DRBC have helped protect our regional water supply. Over 15 million people (approximately five percent of the nation's population) rely on the waters of the Delaware River Basin for drinking, agricultural, and industrial use. Forty-three percent (43%) of all Pennsylvanian's, nearly 5.5 million people, are within the Delaware River Basin.

The 29th Legislative District is home to farms, preserved lands, and more than 900 commercial businesses. The implications from the contaminated ground water are very serious for the region. We are fortunate the programs of DRBC have helped manage the basin, our water resources, and the Delaware River- proving to be a very valuable regional asset.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bernard T. O'Neill
PA House of Representatives
29th Legislative District
Bucks County