

Madeleine Dean, Member
153rd Legislative District

Capitol Office
32 East Wing
PO Box 202153
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2153
P: 717-783-7619
F: 717-780-4754

District Office
1175 Old York Road
Abington, PA 19001
P: 215-517-6800
F: 215-517-6828

RepDean@PaHouse.net
www.PaHouse.com/Dean



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Committees

Appropriations
Finance, Vice-Chair
Judiciary
State Government
Urban Affairs

Caucuses

Southeast Delegation, Chair
PA SAFE, Chair

Member

Pennsylvania Commission
for Women

June 8, 2018

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

RE: State Government Committee Public Hearing
Delaware River Basin Commission

Dear Chairman Metcalfe:

I have been closely monitoring reports pertaining to perfluorinated compounds (e.g. PFOA and PFOS) identified in drinking water wells near military bases in the Philadelphia suburbs, and the issue's potential impact on the nearly 70,000 residents of Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

In recent years, many of my colleagues in our region and their constituents have encountered widespread ground water contamination due to perfluorinated compounds in their districts. Production well use had to be reduced or, in some cases, eliminated. Many homeowners with private wells were provided with filtration systems or connected to public water.

Options for alternative sources for clean, safe drinking water were reviewed and both Warminster Municipal Authority and Warrington Township decided to purchase water from North Wales Water Authority (NWWA). Over 95% of NWWA water is sourced directly from the Delaware River. We are extremely fortunate that this resource is available to meet constituents demand for clean safe drinking water.

I bring this to your attention in light of the House State Government Committee hearing scheduled for June 11, 2018. The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is a federal-interstate compact agency created in 1961 when President Kennedy, Governor Lawrence of Pennsylvania along with the governors of Delaware, New Jersey, and New York, signed concurrent compact legislation into law creating a regional body with the force of law to oversee a unified approach to managing a river system. Currently

more than 15 million people, including about 43 percent of the Commonwealth's population, 5.5 million people, rely on the waters of the Delaware River Basin.

The availability of clean safe drinking water is of paramount importance— so much so, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution declares, *"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment."*

My colleagues in the region with districts impacted with ground water contamination, have sponsored several bills addressing the issue. I am a co-sponsor of Rep. Murt's House Bill 705 to lower the acceptable amount of PFCs in our drinking water to 5 ppt.

The Delaware River is an important resource for recreation, tourism, industry and water supply and for more than 50 years, the Delaware River Basin Commission has effectively managed these resources. They remain poised to continue to provide access to clean, safe, drinking water— and 5.5 million Pennsylvanian's are counting on it.

As members of the General Assembly, we have a constitutional responsibility to ensure clean water for our Commonwealth. Therefore, I support the DRBC's efforts to help maintain this responsibility and look forward continuing this beneficial relationship to the benefit of this Commonwealth and its residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeleine Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Madeleine Dean

cc: Rep. Matt Bradford, Democratic Chair of the State Government Committee
Steve Tambini, Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission