



Delaware River Basin Conservation Act

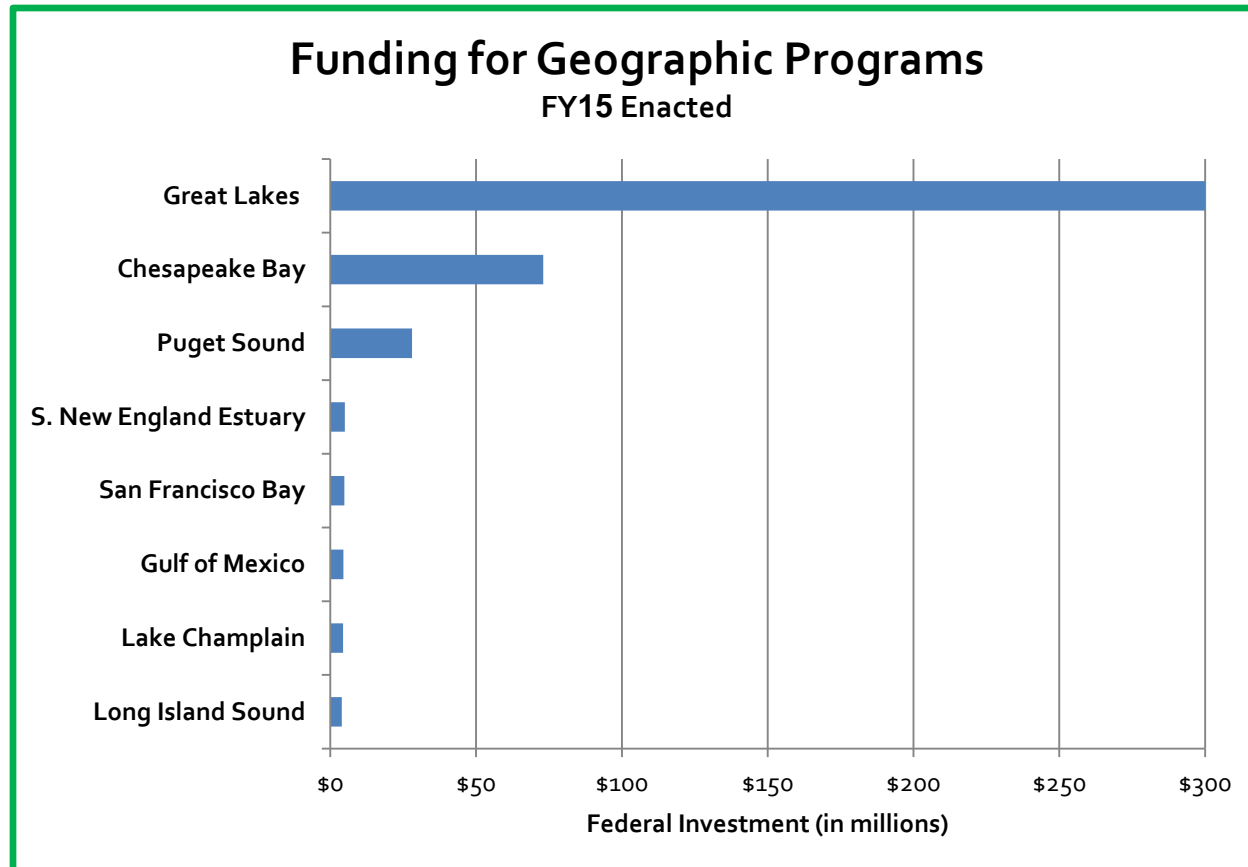
Kim Beidler, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed

Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed



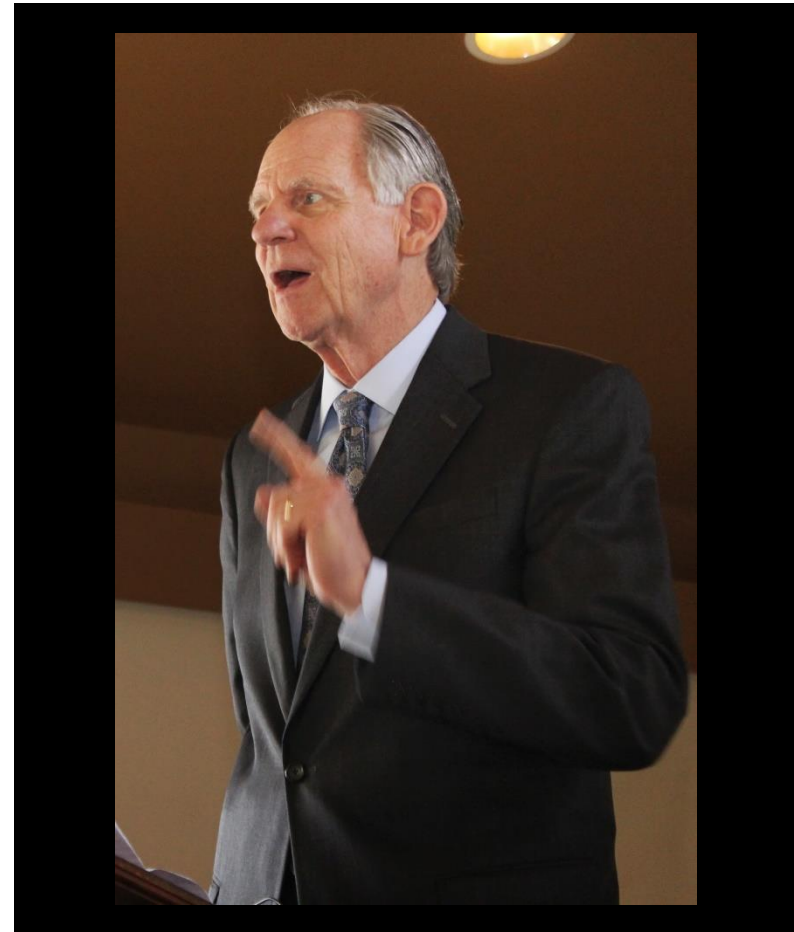
- Organization for NGOs working throughout Watershed
- Provides:
 - Networking & info-sharing opportunities
 - Connection to regional, state & national initiatives
 - Access to coordinated advocacy and efforts

National Context



Legislative History

- Stakeholder-driven process begun in 2008
- First introduced in House in Feb. 2010
 - Original sponsor: Rep. Castle
 - Current sponsor: Rep. Carney
- First introduced in Senate in June 2011
 - Sponsored by Senator Carper
 - Hearing in 2012
- Re-introduced in all sessions since



DRBCA Overview, Part 1



- **Creates a Delaware River Basin Restoration Program in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**
 - Non-regulatory
- **Requires consultation with agencies & states to identify and prioritize activities**
 - DRBC, USACE, EPA, NOAA, NRCS, PDE, States, others

DRBCA Overview, Part 2

- **Creates competitive grant program**
 - State/local agencies, non-profits, universities
 - Federal share up to 50%
- **\$5 million authorized in House & Senate bills**
 - At least 75% for grants & technical assistance
- **Affirms Basin is a national priority**

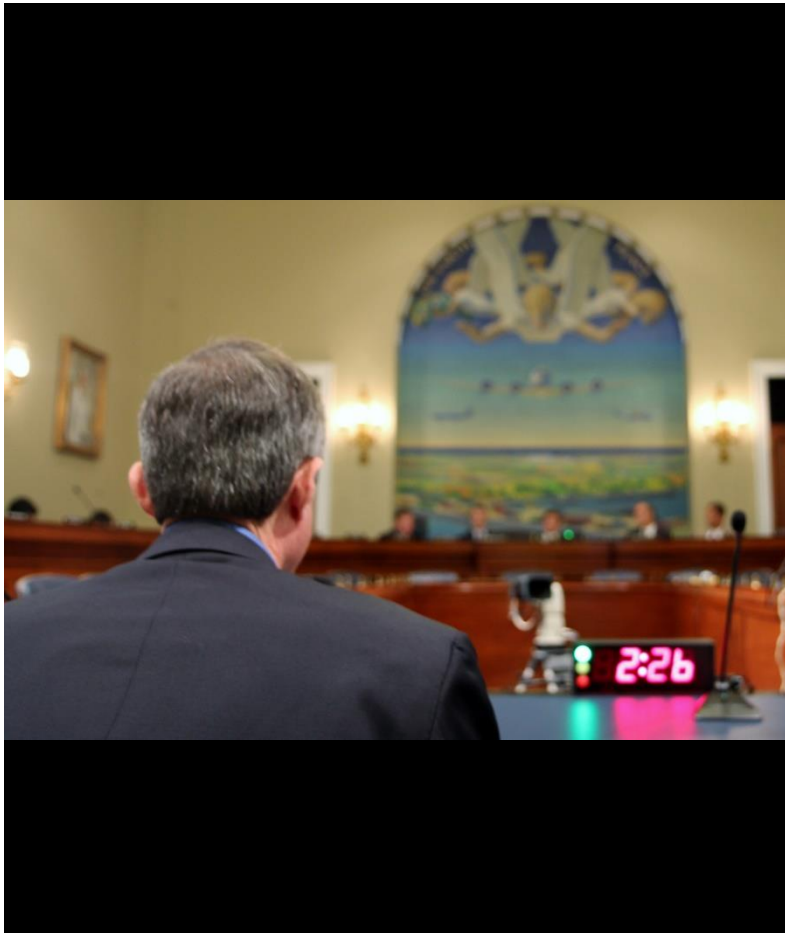


Activities

- ◆ Water Quality Improvements
- ◆ Habitat Restoration & Protection
- ◆ Flood Mitigation
- ◆ Strategic Planning for Resiliency
- ◆ Public Access & Recreation
- ◆ Public Outreach & Education
- ◆ Planning, Monitoring & Research



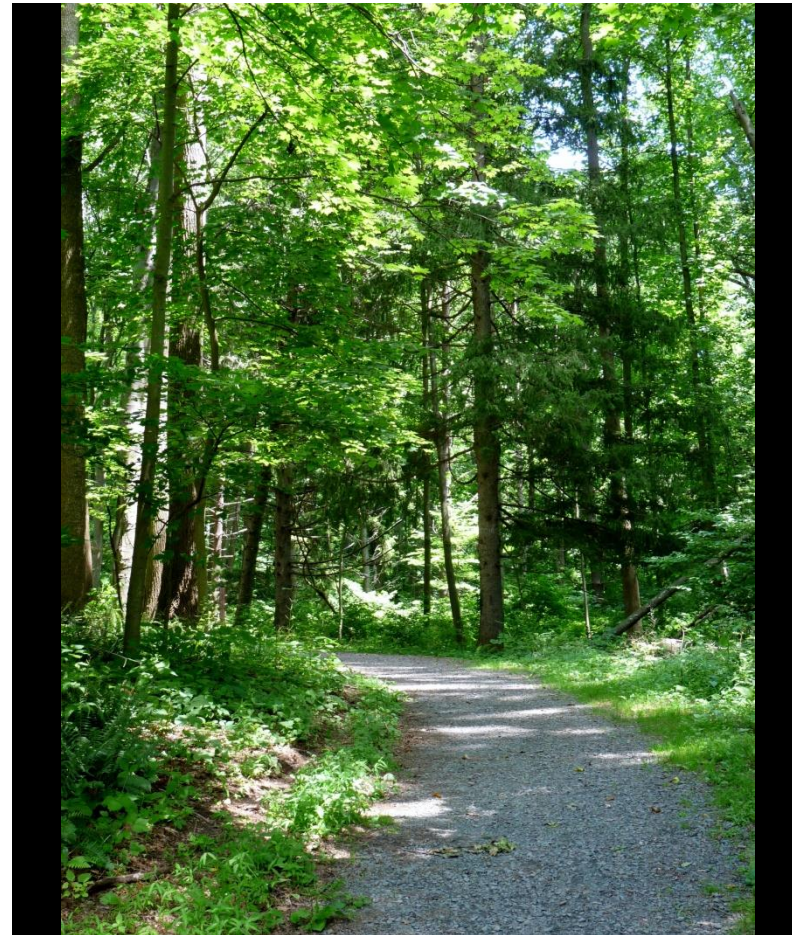
Current Status



- House (H.R. 1772) & Senate (S. 921) bills are identical and were re-introduced on 4/14/15
 - H.R. 1772 has 17 co-sponsors
 - S. 921 has 6 co-sponsors
- H.R. 1772 was heard by Water, Power & Oceans Subcommittee on 7/23/15

Next Steps

- **House: Mark-up before full House Natural Resources Committee**
- **Senate: Hearing before Fisheries, Water & Wildlife Subcommittee**
- **House & Senate: Identify Packaging Options**



Questions?

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3rd Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum

Oct. 5-6, 2015

Clayton Hall, University of Delaware

<http://tinyurl.com/DERIVFORUM>