

NORTH PENN WATER AUTHORITY

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June 6, 2018

Hon. Daryl D. Metcalfe, Chair
State Government Committee
144 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202012
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2012

Hon. Matthew D. Bradford, Democratic Chair
State Government Committee
325 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202070
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2070

SUBJECT: DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION (DRBC)

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter in support of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). I am the Executive Director of the North Penn Water Authority in Lansdale, PA. Having served in this same position for the past 20 years, I can state definitively and with confidence that our organization has had very good dealings with the DRBC over the years, and that their regulatory oversight has not been overly burdensome to our operations. In fact, quite the opposite is the case. It has been the DRBC's diligent stewardship of the Delaware River's water quality and quantity that has ensured our public water supply remains protected and reliably available. The same can be said about the Commission's stewardship of groundwater resources that we also rely on.

Our Authority serves 34,000 customers in a large region of Montgomery and Bucks Counties with an average of 10 million gallons of water per day from a combination of surface water and groundwater supplies. Along with our partners at the North Wales Water Authority, we at the North Penn Water Authority jointly own and operate the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant in Chalfont with a capacity of 40 million gallons per day, along with the Point Pleasant Pumping Station on the banks of the Delaware River in Point Pleasant, PA. This station pumps water into Lake Galena, which we utilize as our raw water reservoir, and also into the Bradshaw Reservoir, which is utilized by PECO as cooling water for its Limerick nuclear power plant. These facilities are vital parts of our infrastructure, as they provide a large geographic region with critical drinking water supplies and electric power generating capability for a very sizable population of homes and businesses in the area. There is a direct connection between the availability of sufficient water and dependable energy supplies and the strong economic vitality of our region. DRBC is at the forefront of making that happen successfully.

Our relations with DRBC in their regulation of the above noted operations have always been cooperative, cordial, and reasonable. Their regulatory oversight has ensured the necessary environmental protections that we all need, without being overly burdensome, and without creating any obstacles to economic growth and development of our region. The DRBC's oversight has helped to ensure that the North Penn Water Authority can continue to maintain a reliable, sustainable water supply that has been instrumental for the safety and security of our region.

In particular, Mr. Steven Tambini, as the Executive Director of the DRBC, has proven himself to be a very capable and competent leader of the Commission, as he brings to his job a wealth of knowledge and experience about the relevant issues that the DRBC deals with. He has been responsive to our needs and concerns, and just a pleasure to deal with in a collaborative partnership.

The DRBC is in the unique position of effectively balancing the needs of various different stakeholders of a multi-state basin in which there are often competing interests. They are charged with ensuring adequate surface water and groundwater supplies up and down the length of a very long river for water utilities, energy providers, recreationalists, community planners, land developers, and business interests, all within the variabilities of changing climate, droughts, and floods. It is a balancing act that is not easy, but that the Commission handles quite successfully. Ultimately, they should be applauded, not criticized, for the effectiveness of their efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this matter. Feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss anything further on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony J. Bellitto, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Anthony J. Bellitto, Jr., P.E.
Executive Director
North Penn Water Authority