

RESOLUTION FOR THE MINUTES

A RESOLUTION for the Minutes in appreciation of the Honorable Thomas R. Carper, United States Senator representing the State of Delaware, for his service to this nation, his championship of the Delaware River and Basin, and his contributions to the success of the Delaware River Basin Commission.

WHEREAS, Senator Carper selflessly served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1968 to 1991, retiring as Captain after 23 years of military service; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Senator Carper served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1982 until 1992, as Governor of Delaware from 1992 until 2000, and 24 years in the U.S. Senate after his initial election in 2000; and

WHEREAS, as Governor of Delaware, Senator Carper served *ex officio* as a Commissioner of the Delaware River Basin Commission, including as its Chair in 1996, and lauded the Commission on its 35th anniversary, stating “The Commission, which pioneered the concept of partnerships, has the tools through its organizational structure to oversee a unified approach to the development and control of the river system without regard to political boundaries”; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 then Governor Carper joined with other basin state governors to sign a “Resolution on the Protection of the Delaware River Basin” that called for the development of a new comprehensive water resources plan for the Basin and Estuary; and

WHEREAS, Senator Carper worked throughout his senate career to advance water resource management priorities nationwide and in the Delaware River Basin; advance solutions to mitigate and address climate change; and promote stewardship of our environment and natural resources – especially our water resources; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Senator Carper pushed for full federal funding for the Commission, and he successfully aided the Commission in securing its full share in Fiscal Year 2009, the first time since 1996 in which the Commission received federal operating funds; and

WHEREAS, after continued budget and funding gaps, Senator Carper successfully led the passage of a Water Resources Development Act amendment further directing the Army Corps of Engineers to fund the Commission; and

WHEREAS, Senator Carper led efforts to create and continue the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program, which has awarded \$72 million in federal funding to landscape and community-scale conservation projects in the Basin since 2016; and

WHEREAS, since 2017 Senator Carper has served as either Chair or Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, leading bipartisan successes in managing

our water and environmental resources while driving economic growth and building thriving communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 Senator Carper played an instrumental role in constructing and passing the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, providing billions of dollars for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, ecosystem restoration, flood mitigation, and waterway management; and

WHEREAS, Senator Carper has immense knowledge of complex water resource issues, cares deeply about protecting this vital resource, and has long championed the Delaware River, its communities, and its wildlife; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Senator Carper has embodied the “Delaware Way,” modeling civility, integrity and collaboration to build and sustain a spirit of community; and

WHEREAS, Senator Carper is a die-hard Delawarean, choosing the “First State” and its people as his home, crisscrossing the state in his beloved “Silver Bullet” minivan and returning nightly from Washington on Amtrak.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners and staff of the Delaware River Basin Commission hereby recognize and thank Senator Thomas R. Carper for his extraordinary service and wish him a long, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

BY THE COMMISSION

ADOPTED: December 5, 2024