



The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Supports Strong, Stable Funding to Ensure Access to Clean, Safe Drinking Water for All Delawareans

Testimony to the Bond Committee on May 17, 2018

We are pleased that the Governor has set aside \$6 billion for clean water projects this year. We agree with him that it would be wise to allot even more this year to address some very serious problems. We also hope that the Legislature, Governor Carney and Treasurer Simpler can work together to find a way to stabilize our budget from year-to-year. This would seem to be the best way to ensure adequate funding for clean water, open space and preservation of agricultural lands in future years.

The League of Women Voters believes that environmental problems need to be solved through careful analysis of the evidence. All counties in Delaware have problems with contaminated drinking water, but the issues vary greatly from place to place. The causes of each problem need to be properly understood in order to determine the best solutions

Are regulations that were introduced in good faith actually causing water pollution? This has been suggested in some cases where spraying treated sewage onto fields has been blamed for high nitrate levels? Are current regulations on industry and agriculture sufficient to protect our water? Are there cases where failures to adhere to existing regulations caused problems?

Hockessin has just been declared an EPA Superfund site. What happened to cause this widespread contamination of water with dry-cleaning fluids? Was it a result of inadequate regulations, failure to follow proper procedures, or both? This problem needs to be resolved and affected residents deserve to be

informed about what happened and what is being done to remedy the situation.

Preventing future contamination requires understanding what caused current problems. This calls for strong funding for DNREC and all other relevant agencies.

Every resident of Delaware deserves ready access to clean, safe drinking water. It is not acceptable to suggest that some members of our community must give up this right in order that others may have jobs, as has been done in at least one case in Sussex County.

The League of Women Voters has long understood that maintaining a healthy environment is a necessary part of achieving long-term economic prosperity. We hope you will provide for Delaware's economic and environmental health with much-needed funding for clean water.