

Aurel M. Arndt
298 Conrad Rd.
Alburtis, PA 18011
aurel.arndt@gmail.com

June 5, 2018
Sent via email

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

Re: Pennsylvania House State Government Committee Hearing on June 11, 2018

Dear Chairman Metcalfe and Minority Chair Bradford:

I have lived and worked in the Lehigh Valley all my life. I have watched this area successfully grow and thrive despite major transformations in region's the core economy. As the former Chief Executive Officer and General Manager for the Lehigh County Authority (LCA) for over 30 years, I know that access to clean and sustainable water resources has been critical to the region's economic prosperity. For background, LCA provides drinking water and wastewater treatment and disposal for over 200,000 residents and businesses in the Lehigh Valley region. The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has always worked with the water community and the regulated community throughout the Lehigh Valley to effectively manage our precious water resources.

Your notice for the upcoming hearing on the DRBC indicates that your Committee wanted to obtain input from entities that are regulated by the DRBC. I have worked with DRBC throughout my entire water career, spanning over 40 years, as part of their regulated community. While there is room for improvement in all government agencies, DRBC has proven to be responsive to their Compact mission. DRBC effectively manages regional and interstate water supplies, river flows and groundwater allocations; and they help to ensure clean waters through their Special Protection Waters program. While their wastewater discharge standards are strict, they help to protect the quality of source water for communities and drinking water utilities that tap the Delaware River and its tributaries for their water supply. Given the growth currently being experienced in the Lehigh Valley, LCA has frequently interacted with DRBC to allow us to meet our area's drinking water and wastewater treatment needs

and we have found them to be solution oriented, responsive, fair and transparent. While no one like to pay fees, DRBC is a small and efficient group that coordinates effectively with other agencies and that helps to keep fees reasonable.

For example, in recent years, LCA has been planning for our area's the future wastewater treatment needs and an important aspect of that work has been the determination of the discharge standards applicable to a new or expanded plant. Our engineers worked closely with DRBC's staff to model the impacts of additional discharges to the Basin waters, involving months of discussions and work with DRBC. We found DRBC's focus on a sound scientific approach to be very helpful in reaching a reasonable outcome.

Pennsylvania benefits in many ways from effective management of the Basin's water resources by DRBC. Funds from all states support water storage at Beltzville Lake on the Lehigh River. DRBC releases water from Beltzville Lake and other reservoirs in Pennsylvania during periods of low flow. Groundwater and surface waters are interconnected and DRBC science-based approach to regulation of both looks at water availability, potential interference issues, water efficiency and planning for drought management across the entire Delaware Basin. In many cases PADEP does not have the authority or capability to address complex regional and interstate water resource management issues and does not have the ability to set common standards for water withdrawals and wastewater discharges across state lines.

I currently serve as an Officer with the American Water Works Association (AWWA). AWWA is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational society dedicated to providing total water solutions assuring the effective management of water. AWWA unites the diverse water community to advance public health, safety, the economy, and the environment. While our nation's water management seems effortless when things are going well, but when multiple entities are involved, including interstate relationships, matters become complex and often controversial. I believe DRBC has been effectively managing that complexity for over 50 years. The Lehigh Valley has benefitted both economically and environmentally from DRBC's even handed regulatory approach and has seen a return of water-based activities and development. DRBC has played an important role in this success and I urge the Pennsylvania State House Committee and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to continue to support DRBC's important work to protect and manage the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. If it would be helpful, I would be happy to discuss them or answer any related questions.

Sincerely,



Aurel M. Arndt

Retired CEO, Lehigh County Authority

Treasurer, American Water Works Association

cc. Steve Tambini, DRBC

Rep. Ryan Mckenzie

Rep. Marcia Hahn
Rep. Steve Samuelson
Rep. Michael Schlossberg
Rep. Justin Simmons
Rep. Gary Day
Rep. Peter Schweyer
Rep. Jeanne McNeill
Rep. Zachary Mako