

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 18, 2010

The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

As we have already seen in the Northeast, the past spring season resulted in ice melts, heavy rainfall and flooding of rivers across the country. The Delaware River is not excluded from this threat. Collectively, we have fought on behalf of our constituents to determine what actions should be taken to mitigate flooding on the Delaware River. We write you today to ask that you strongly consider the recent findings of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) in determining the best approach to flood mitigation in the area.

On December 15, 2009, the DRBC presented the findings of the Flood Analysis Model to our constituents at a meeting of the Flood Mitigation Task Force in Flemington, New Jersey. The Commission came to several conclusions based on the results of the model. It was revealed that void space in the New York City/Delaware River reservoirs could lessen the effects of flooding on the Delaware River. In some areas, almost 50 percent of the damage caused by flooding could be avoided by managing the reservoirs based on the City's actual consumption.

While the reservoirs were not originally designed as flood mitigation tools, we encourage you and the officials at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to continue to take flooding issues into strong consideration when managing the reservoir system. It is essential that the City of New York and the governors of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware continue to explore how to manage the reservoirs in a way that permits more water releases to mitigate floods while still preserving the precious water supply of the city.

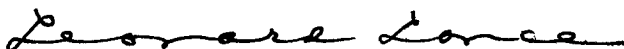
The DRBC has agreed to work with reservoir operators to evolve Spill Mitigation Programs to "shift spilled water to managed water" with the incorporation of the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (NWS/AHPS) forecasts. We request that these programs be developed as soon as possible to mitigate flooding for our constituents.

We applaud the recent decision of the DEP to release additional water from the reservoirs due to the extreme amount of snowfall the region has experienced this winter. Accounting for the snowpack water is an important step in enhancing the flood mitigation provided by the reservoirs.

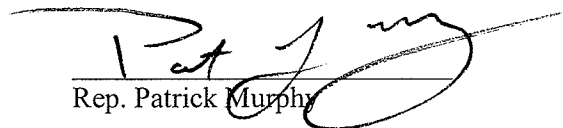
We recognize that proper management of the reservoirs may not completely alleviate all of the risk of flooding on the Delaware River but it is our duty to do everything possible to provide the safest environment for our constituents.

You can count on our continued support for this, and all your efforts to improve life for families along the Delaware River. In the meantime, we appreciate your consideration of our request.

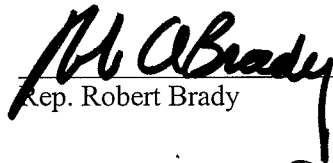
Sincerely,



Rep. Leonard Lance

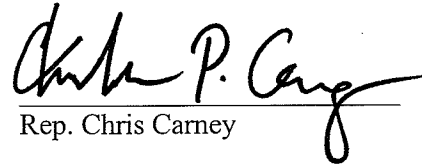


Rep. Patrick Murphy



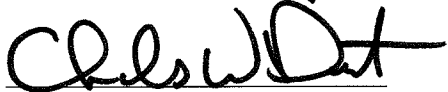
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Rep. Robert Brady



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Rep. Chris Carney



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Rep. Charlie Dent



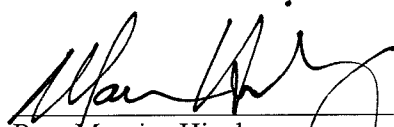
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Rep. Scott Garrett



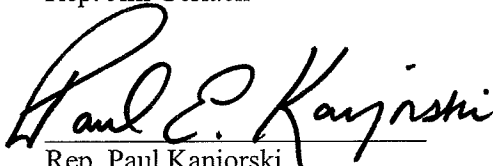
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Rep. Jim Gerlach



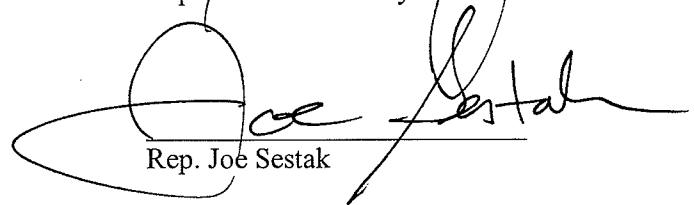
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Rep. Maurice Hinchey



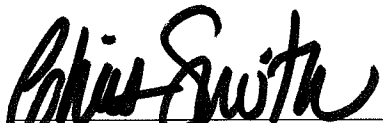
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Rep. Paul Kanjorski



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Rep. Joe Sestak



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Rep. Chris Smith