

Yesterday, my husband and I took a long walk along Brandywine Creek in Wilmington. Along the way we noticed many posted signs warning us to *not* eat any fish from these waters, and to *not* swim in these waters during or after rainstorms. We were not there during or after a rainstorm, yet the smell of sewage was still strong in places where water was dumping into the creek. This was also despite temperatures in only the 40's. It seems obvious that the wastewater infrastructure in Wilmington is overwhelmed and was designed for a different era.

We also hear that clean water sources may become so scarce in the not-too-distant future, that it could become a national security issue. We are more than willing to pay an annual tax of \$80 in our Delaware combined taxes to clean up our waters and improve our security. It also seems that this is the *least* administratively expensive way of collecting these funds. We just ask that those tax revenues be fully directed into a locked fund, used only to improve our water quality.

I close with one last thought: I wonder how much it costs to treat contaminated water enough to use as drinking water? Maybe we would spend far *less* in the long run if our water started out far less contaminated.

Thank you for your attention, and I ask that you support House Bill 270.

Rebecca Brill

1815 Gravers Lane

Wilmington, DE 19810

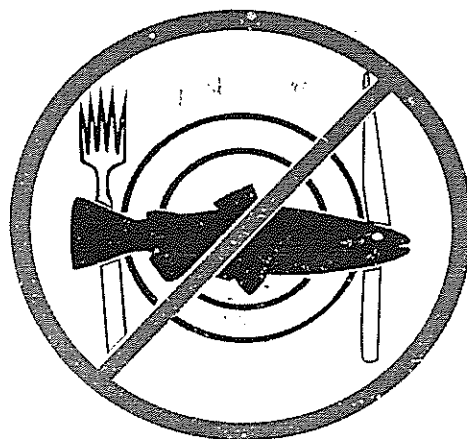
# WARNING

It is recommended that no fish  
be eaten from these waters.

For more information, call:

Dept. of Natural Resources  
and Environmental Control  
(302) 739-4506

Division of Public Health  
Office of Environmental Health  
(302) 739-5617



# CUIDADO

Se recomienda que no coma  
pescado de estas aguas.

Para más información, llamar al :

Dept. de Recursos Naturales  
y Control al Medio Ambiente  
(302) 739-4506

División de Salud Pública  
Oficina de Salud y Medio Ambiente  
(302) 739-5617

My name is Glenda Risch and I live in Ocean View.  
Thank you for the opportunity to speak before this committee.

I support HB270 because

-I believe that everyone deserves clean water. Yet I have a contaminated well as do several of my neighbors.

-The projects generated from this bill will provide clean drinking water, updated water infrastructure, cleaner bays and waterways that will no longer require limitations for safe swimming and fishing

-Not only will jobs be created by these projects, but clean water will be attractive to companies who may be considering locating here.

-The tax within this bill will cost a household of two or more, 22cents per day, which is far less than I spend on bottled water daily.

-I realize that taxation is rarely a popular concept for governing bodies to embrace and yet it is necessary for responsible governing.

- You've all been in the state assemble long enough to know that an annual clean water budget can not be cobbled together by cutting or decreasing the budget in other programs.
- Without this financial commitment, we risk further water deterioration which at the very least will result in loss of tourism, jobs and dollars that they create, as well as an increase in health risks for our visitors and those of us that live here.
- We need a continual funding source to fix our water problems and place DE in the forefront as a safe environment in which to live and play.

**Statement from Don Flood, Lewes, March 28, 2018** on HB 270

On March 14, I attended a meeting about our state's drinking water sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Sussex County.

It was titled "Safe Drinking Water? Everyone's Concern."

Before the meeting I didn't realize that safe drinking really was everyone's concern.

Here are some of the things I heard that night that shocked me:

- I was shocked to hear that the Allen Harim chicken plant in Harbeson had been issued 90 violations because of excess discharge into Beaver Dam Creek. They had not been assessed any fines.

- I was shocked to hear about how the town of Milton handles its water. It has two deep wells that have no nitrates and two shallow wells that have some nitrates.

They mix the water from the deep and shallow wells so that the town water has what's considered a safe level of nitrates. That's works for now but if I lived in Milton I'd be concerned.

- I was shocked to hear the problem is much worse for those who live outside of town. One neighborhood has a house where the level of nitrates in the drinking water is 9 times what is considered a safe level. That house has a 3-year-old who drinks the water.

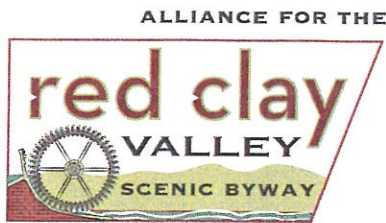
- I was shocked to hear about how many diseases have been linked to excess nitrates, everything from diabetes to Parkinson's to ovarian and stomach cancer. And also birth defects.

One of the experts that night had a grim warning. "Don't assume your water's safe."

He was talking to everybody, those who have town water and those with residential wells. Just recently, we've seen problems with the water in Blades and in the Millsboro area.

If we don't do something now to ensure the safety of our drinking water, we will regret it later. What is a property worth if ~~it's~~<sup>its</sup> drinking water is contaminated?

Thank you for listening.



Statement on HB 270 by the RCVSB Alliance

3/21/2018

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Delaware Nature Society  
Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc.  
Mt. Cuba  
Red Clay Reservation  
Red Clay Valley Association

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Hockessin, DE 19707

Thank you to the House Natural Resources Committee members for the opportunity to comment on HB 270, the Clean Water for Delaware Act.

My name is Ginger North and I am the Chair of the Red Clay Valley Scenic Byway Alliance.

The Red Clay Valley Scenic Byway is a scenic network of water, roads, & history. We are the first byway in the US to be based on a watershed model. Water defines our scenic byway.

The Red Clay Valley Scenic Byway also is unique in that the byway designation is not only used to promote tourism but is also used as a tool to preserve and protect its unique qualities including the Red Clay Creek.

The RCVSB Alliance supports HB 270 as this bill addresses water quality & quantity issues that not only DIRECTLY impact our byway and watershed but also other communities across the state of Delaware.

Specifically, it will help us address the water contamination in our byway both due to legacy contaminants like zinc in the Red Clay Creek and dry cleaning fluids found in the Hockessin aquifer. It will also help with the severe flooding issues we have that damage our homes and the local infrastructure like roads and bridges.

Dedicated funds like those in HB 270 will enhance and accelerate Delaware's efforts to clean up its contaminated water resources, ensure all Delawareans have access to safe drinking water, reduce flooding, and protect jobs in agriculture and tourism.

Funding water quality improvement projects now will result in less costly emergency fixes in the future, improved health for Delawareans and an even more robust tourism economy for generations to come.

We urge you to support this bill and we thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter.

[http://delawarenaturesociety.org/red\\_clay.html](http://delawarenaturesociety.org/red_clay.html)