



May 4, 2022

Re: HB2450 entitled an “Act amending the act of July 7, 1961 (P.L.518, No.268), known as the Delaware River Basin Compact, in organization and area, further providing for voting power.”

Dear Pennsylvania Senators,

Delaware Riverkeeper Newark opposes HB2450, proposed as a way to expand Pennsylvania’s voting power and limit the voting powers of the other states and the federal representative who comprise the Delaware River Basin Commission’s (DRBC) voting members. This attempt to interfere with the DRBC’s work in carrying out the protection of the shared waters of the Delaware River Watershed is a recurring effort by some PA Legislators to thwart watershed-based planning and regulation.

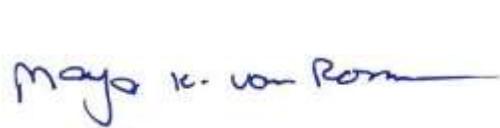
The DRBC is founded on the principles of cooperative watershed management that fairly manages the shared waters, the lands within the river basin, and the assets of the Delaware River Basin. It is a successful agreement that, because it recognizes the benefits of cooperative and fairly apportioned decisionmaking, has resulted in uncommon and highly praised water quality and ecological achievements that have greatly benefited these shared waters throughout the watershed, including Pennsylvania. More than 5 million Pennsylvanians drink water from the Delaware River Basin and benefit from its water quality.

HB2450 illustrates a misunderstanding of the DRBC’s authority, which is based on the Delaware River Basin Compact. The Compact is an agreement that was executed in 1961 and ratified by Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, New Jersey and the United States. The DRBC has been operating cooperatively under the Compact for more than 60 years. All five members of the Compact must agree to any changes to the Compact and the members’ voting powers. The principles of federalism require that under an interstate compact commission, a state cannot unilaterally impose requirements or change the voting powers of its members. This bill, on its face and in concept, represents a power grab that flies in the face of good government.

We urge you to not advance this bill and if it does come up for a vote, to vote NO.

Thank you for your consideration,

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