

Susquehanna River Advocacy Guide for Impairment

Federal Government Section

Section 1 – How to Contact your Federal Legislators

Below is a map of 2013 Congressional Districts for the United State House of Representatives in the Susquehanna River Basin. In addition, there is a list of all those Representatives and their contact information including mail, phone for both local and Washington DC offices, and how to electronically contact them. Due to the large amount of spam emails receive, most elect for you to fill out a Contact Us form and submit. Each state has two Senators that cover the entire state jointly and have offices throughout the state, I will provide contact information for the PA on the map and give a site on how to find your Legislator if not on the list.

The do's and don'ts of contacting your Legislator. I have learned over the years of doing this that there are several things that will get you a better response from your legislator than others and here are my recommendations:

1. Do research. I always spend time learning about what my legislators stand for, who funds their campaigns (http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/candcmte_info.shtml) and their backgrounds (<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>). Just search their name and their government website and campaign website will both come up. This will improve your chances of not saying something that will shut them down to your point and you can use those things they stand for to your advantage. You can have those polarizing discussions that might go against their beliefs or stances when we have the data that supports the root causes of the pollution of the river.
2. Remain clear and concise. Don't write novels, you want people to read your opinion. Make sure you get to the points and what backs your opinion up very clear. Some people use bullet points or short paragraphs to keep to what they are trying to say. Don't ramble on about things. Try not to use excessive adjectives. Watch the length of your sentences and this will help in keeping to the point.
3. Don't add other issues. Don't get all your issues with government, the country and anything else off your chest in this contact. Leave those for another time. Stick to the single issue, pollution in the river and the impaired river list.
4. Make sure you express how the pollution in the river impacts yours, your family and communities lives. This will give the person an understanding of why you are so concerned about this issue that you felt you needed to contact them.
5. Be friendly and respectful. I always use Representative name in my greeting. As much as we disagree with a person, you will get people to hear you if you are friendly and respectful. I know that when people are attacked or even perceiving an attack, they are less likely to listen. Even if you get a response you don't want to hear, be friendly and respectful in your response back. It is about changing people's opinions on things and aggression just shuts people down. Always thank them for their time or attention to the matter in every response.

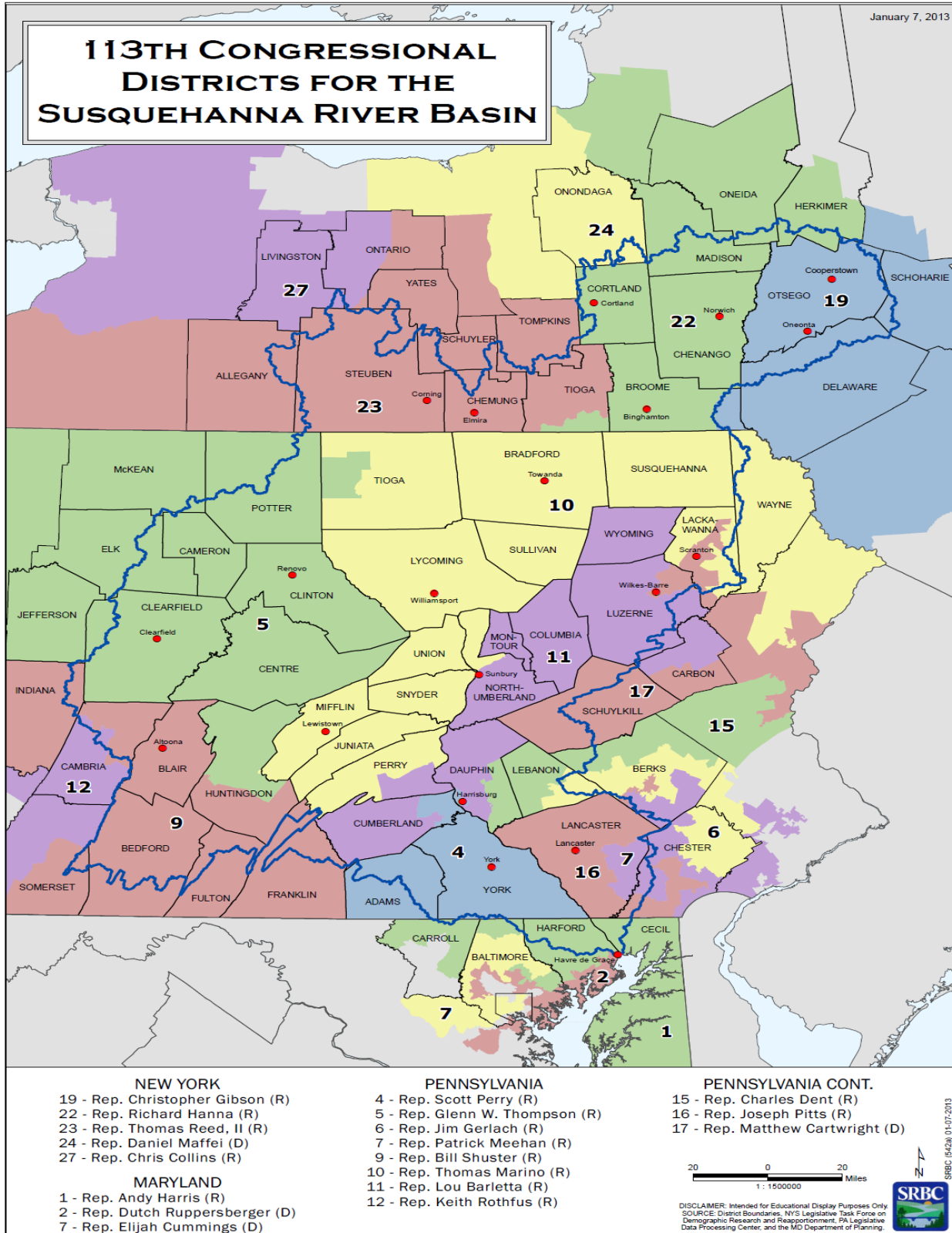
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6. Offer your solution. Every time I have met with an elected official I offer what my solutions are to the problem I am bringing. Almost every one of them appreciates this because usually all they get is the problem from a citizen with just “fix it”. Our legislators are presented with some many different issues and they sometimes do not fully understand the problem you are presenting. Solutions you offer might be the first they have heard and influence their future opinion on the issue. The immediate solution that PFBC is recommending is adding the Susquehanna River to the Impaired Waterways List and I endorse this as a first step.
7. Sometimes it pays to share pictures of both sick fish and fun trips fishing. This will personalize the issue that will increase their willingness to prioritize the issue. If they have belief in strong family values, send family fishing pictures. If they are environmentally conscious, send pictures of sick fishing. Using their beliefs to your advantage since the river is about all those things.
8. Keep data clean. Be careful you have good clean data if you are going to use any. If you are going to cite a cause, be careful that you can back up what you say or this might polarize the person. Good example is Marcellus Shale, be careful in saying that this is the cause of the pollution of the river since it is so polarizing. I recommend phrasing an opinion on a source “that with all the media attention on the water quality from gas drilling, I am concerned that Marcellus Shale could be a source of pollution for the river and we would like to find out, that is why I am supporting listing the river on the Impaired Waterways list.” This allows you to get your opinion across without putting the other person on the defensive. You can cite the data presented by PFBC
9. Finally, follow-up. If you have not heard back from your legislator in some way, contact them again. They work for every citizen in their district and you have every right and expectation that they will contact you and hear what you have to say. This might be through an aid but that is alright, they report back to the Legislator and if they have a large amount of calls on a subject, the Legislator will be compelled to publically comment on it. This is how the American system works but we as citizens must participate in it not only by voting but by providing feedback to Legislators about issues that are your priorities. Does not matter how much campaign financing they get from special interests, they still need the votes from the citizens and if they are not doing right by them we should not elect them.

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Please contact your federal Legislators on this issue. You can call their offices, draft letters to mail (be careful with mailing, takes a very long time with the security measures in DC, mail to their local office) or fax and submit to their contact me website. If your congressional district is not on the map above please or you cannot tell who your Representative is please use <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> with your zip code. Please only contact your Representative or Senator, by law they cannot respond to someone outside their district and your time will be wasted. Even if you are resident of another state, contact your Legislator and make this a national issue especially those in the Chesapeake Bay basin. The impact is far reaching than just Pennsylvania or even the Mid Atlantic states.

Pennsylvania

Senators

Sen. Robert Casey

Must use email through contact me - <http://www.casey.senate.gov/services/help/>

DC Office 393 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Phone – 866-802-2833 Fax - 202-228-0604

Harrisburg 22 S Third Street Suite, 6A Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone – Free 866-461-9159 or 717-231-7540 Fax – 717-231-7542

Northeastern 417 Lackawanna Ave, Suite 303 Scranton, PA 18503
Phone – 570-941-0930 Fax- 570-941-0937

Sen. Pat Toomey

Must use email through contact me - http://www.toomey.senate.gov/?p=federal_agency_help

DC Office 502 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone – 202-224-4254 Fax – 202-228-0284

Harrisburg US Federal Building 228 Walnut St Suite 1104 Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone – 717-782-3951 Fax – 717-782-4920

Allentown 1150 S Cedar Crest Blvd Suite 101 Allentown, PA 18103
Phone – Free 855-552-1831 or 610-434-1444 Fax – 610-434-1844

US House of Representatives

District 4 Rep. Scott Perry

Must use email through contact me - <https://perry.house.gov/contact/email-me>

DC Office 126 Cannon House Office Building Washington DC 20515
Phone 202-226-5836 Fax – 202-226-1000

York 2209 East Market Street York, PA 17402

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Phone 717-600-1919

District 5 Rep. Glenn Thompson

Must use contact us - <https://thompson.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

DC Office 124 Cannon HOB Washington DC 20515
Phone – 202-225-5121 Fax – 202-225-5796

Bellefonte 3555 Benner Pike, Suite 101 Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone – 814-353-0215 Fax – 814-353-0218

District 6 Rep. Jim Gerlach

Must use email through contact me - <http://gerlach.house.gov/contact/emailjim.htm>

DC Office 2442 Rayburn HOB Washington DC, 20515
Phone - 202-225-4315 Fax - 202-225-8440

Chester County 111 E. Uwchian Ave Exton, PA 19341
Phone – 610-594-1415 Fax – 610-594-1419

District 7 Rep. Patrick Meehan

Must use email through contact me - <https://meehanforms.house.gov/email-me>

DC Office 204 Cannon HOB Washington DC 20515
Phone – 202-225-2011 Fax – 202-226-0280

Springfield 940 W Sproul Rd Springfield, PA 19064
Phone – 610-690-7323 Fax – 610-690-7329

District 9 Rep. Bill Shuster

Must use email through contact me - <http://shuster.house.gov/contact-form/>

DC Office 2209 Rayburn HOB Washington DC, 25015
Phone – 202-225-2431 Fax – 202-225-2486

Hollidaysburg 310 Penn St, Suite 200 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
Phone – Free 800-854-3035 or 814-696-6318 Fax – 814-696-6726

District 10 Rep. Tom Marino

Must use email through contact me - <https://marino.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

DC Office 410 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515
Phone – 202-225-3731 Fax – 202-225-9594

Williamsport 1020 Commerce Park Dr, Suite 1A Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone – 570-322-3961 Fax – 570-322-3965

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District 11 Rep. Lou Berletta

Use email through contact me - <https://barletta.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=58§iontree=2,58>

DC Office 115 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515
Phone – Free 855-241-5144 or 202-225-6511 Fax – 202-226-6250

Hazleton 1 S. Church St Suite 100 Hazleton, PA 18201
Phone – 570-751-0050 Fax – 570-751-0054

District 12 Rep. Keith Rothfus

Must use email through contact me - <https://rothfus.house.gov/contact/email-me>

DC Office 503 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515
Phone – 202-225-2065 Fax – 202-225-5709

Pittsburgh 6000 Babcock Blvd, Suite 104 Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Johnstown 110 Franklin St Suite 150 Cambria County Complex Johnstown, PA 15901
Phone – 814-619-3659

District 15 Rep. Charles Dent

Must use email through contact me - <https://dent.house.gov/?p=ContactForm>

DC Office 2455 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515
Phone – 202-225-6411 Fax – 202-226-0778

Lehigh Valley 3900 Hamilton Blvd, Suite 207 Allentown, PA 18103
Phone – Free 866-861-2624 or 610-770-3490

District 16 Rep Joe Pitts

Must use email through contact me - <https://pitts.house.gov/contact-me/legislative-contact-form>

DC Office 420 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515
Phone – 202-225-2411 Fax – 202-225-2013

Chester County PO Box 837 Unionville, PA 19375
Phone – 610-444-4581 Fax – 610-444-5750

District 17 Rep. Mathew Cartwright

Must use email through contact me - <https://cartwright.house.gov/contact/email-me>

DC Office 1419 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515
Phone – 202-225-5546

Scranton 226 Wyoming Ave Scranton, PA 18503
Phone – 570-341-1050 Fax – 570-341-1055

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Section 2 – How to contact the United States Environment Protection Agency (EPA)

Usually citizens do not contact a department or agency directly unless they have some sort of specific reason or need from that agency. This is because these agencies do not enact law, Legislators do but this is not true. These agencies have significant impact on regulations and laws, they are the enforcement side. Federal, state and local agencies have to interpret and at times write details of laws out in regulations, bulletins and rules. When laws are created, the details are not always completely thought out by Legislators since they aren't the people doing the work. This leaves it up to the agencies, commissions, authorities and/or departments that are given responsibility of to interpret and enforce that interpretation of a law under their purview. The courts determine if that interpretation is within the scope of the law. This is our system of government and it works on occasion.

The EPA is doing this process with the Impaired Waterway Section of the Clean Water Act. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is required every two years to submit a list of Impaired Waterways and rank them based on several things to prioritize funding for their clean up and what the plan is for that clean up. The EPA is required to review this list and either approve, make recommendations to amend or deny within thirty days of when DEP submitted the list. The EPA uses the summaries provided by DEP, data and summaries they may have or from other sources they have access to, to assure DEP followed the procedures in developing the list and any public disagreement with the list and how they addressed it. This is why it is important to contact the EPA on this matter to voice the public disagreement with the list and to request the EPA to require DEP to add the Susquehanna River to the list. This is within the scope of the enforcement powers of the EPA, this was put in to make sure governmental officials do not side step public opinion with no consequences, especially on the environment. I have provided all the names, contact mailing addresses and email. Email is how I recommending contact them. I also put the EPA's Table of Organization so you understand how each of these players fit into the structure of the agency. Use many of the same do's and don'ts for the Legislators, you can research the top people's bios but will have limited knowledge of where they stand on issues.

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Environmental Protection Agency Table of Organization in regards to the Susquehanna River. The comment site for Region 3 Office of Water is the fastest way to contact the EPA on the PA's impaired waterways list submission since they are the ones reviewing. I would also email the District 3 Shawn Garvin.

1. Administrator – Currently vacant
2. Deputy Administrator -
Bob Perciasepe
Email – perciasepe.bob@epa.gov
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Phone: (202) 564-4711
3. Assistant Administrator for Office of Water
Nancy Stoner
Email – stoner.nancy@epa.gov
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Phone – (202) 564-5700
4. Administrator for Region 3
Shawn Garvin
Email: R3_RA@epa.gov
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
215-814-2300
Phone: (215) 814-2900
5. Director for Region 3 Office of Water
Comment website - <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/contact.htm>
Jon M. Capacasa
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Phone - 215-814-2300

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