

*Thank you for testifying today in support of HB 200. Below, and on the reverse side of this sheet, please find talking points you may use when testifying, including talking points specific to the community you live in. You will only be given 2 minutes to speak, so please be brief! If someone testifying before you already brought up any of the below points, please simply mention you agree with the supporters before you and tell your personal story as to why you care about clean water funding.*

- Thank you to the Chairs of the House Natural Resources Committee and Committee members for the opportunity to comment on HB 200, the Clean Water for Delaware Act. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and (I represent ORGANIZATION NAME -OR- I live in NAME OF COMMUNITY).
- I support HB 200 because \_\_\_\_\_(see examples below)\_\_\_\_\_.
- Tell your personal story! Some examples could include:
  - Flooding in your neighborhood;
  - The impact fishing and swimming advisories have on your family;
  - The impact flooding has on your commute to work;
  - Your concerns for your grandchildren and their future children.
- Delaware is facing a deficit of over \$100 million per year to address basic water quality standards for swimming, drinking, and supporting wildlife. Inconsistent federal funding can't meet our current or future needs.
- Delaware is particularly vulnerable to flooding as it is the lowest-lying state in the entire nation.
- 90% of Delaware's waterways are polluted or contaminated and over 100 miles of Delaware's waters have swimming and fishing limitations due to water quality.
- 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.

*(MORE TALKING POINTS ON NEXT PAGE)*

**What Does HB 200 Do?**

- HB 200, the Clean Water for Delaware Act, provides \$25 million per year in dedicated funding for water quality improvement and flood reduction projects in Delaware.
  
- These funds would specifically be used for projects that:
  - improve flooding resiliency and drainage in our most flood-prone communities;
  - repair failing sewer pipes/ sewer systems;
  - improve the quality of our drinking water & expand access to safe drinking water;
  - remove legacy pollution from our waterways;
  - Provide conservation cost-share funds for the agriculture community.
  
- HB 200 prioritizes projects that utilize natural solutions (or “green infrastructure”) to improve water quality and/or benefit traditionally underserved communities.
  
- The bill also provides the much-needed expansion of drinking water testing for harmful pollutants throughout the state.
  
- The dedicated funding could also leverage as much as \$50 million in total financing annually for clean water investments and support more than 800 direct and indirect jobs per year.
  
- HB 200 sets up a Clean Water Trust comprised of the heads of Delaware’s Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control; Department of Finance; Department of Agriculture; and Health and Social Services to ensure the state’s environmental, economic, agricultural and public health priorities are addressed through this funding.

Personal notes for your testimony:

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