



RIISING TO MEET THE MOMENT

CONTINUING OUR CLEAN WATER ADVOCACY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Greetings,

In the tumult of recent policy changes, clean water remains our priority. During the past few months, we have advocated for the definition of “Waters of the United States” and for increased investment in the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program. We have also started a **#TellYourStory campaign** to uplift the business voice during these challenging times.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without your generous time and support.

Now, more than ever, in the face of climate change and political uncertainty, it is vital to continue advocating for sound stormwater and clean water management. To drive even greater impact, we need you by our side! **Please consider donating today to help us protect our water systems and create healthier, more resilient communities for future generations.**

Together, we can keep the momentum going—one drop at a time.

SUPPORT OUR
CLEAN WATER WORK



Clean Water is Good for Business—And We're Making Sure Policymakers Know It

This spring, while Washington buzzed with political turnover, frozen budgets, and shifting federal priorities, the *Clean Water is Good for Business* campaign stayed laser-focused on its mission: elevating the voice of business through clean water advocacy.

That mission became all the more urgent in March, when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers announced plans to **revisit the definition of “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS)**—the legal foundation of the Clean Water Act. Although no new rule has been proposed yet, this process could lead to further rollbacks that would remove federal protections from critical wetlands, streams, and headwaters. These waters feed into the rivers and lakes that supply our drinking water, support agriculture and industry, and sustain regional economies.

We've already seen the impact of the *Sackett v. EPA* decision (2023), which stripped protections from vast wetland areas. Now, with polluters pushing for even fewer safeguards, the risks are intensifying: **more pollution, higher treatment costs, and greater vulnerability to flooding and drought.** For businesses, this means strained supply chains, increased operating costs, and growing threats to workforce health and long-term economic resilience.





In the past month, the *Clean Water is Good for Business* campaign responded swiftly, calling on the EPA to maintain the current definition of WOTUS. During the 30-day public comment period, **we submitted a collective comment with the support of 19 businesses and helped 12 businesses raise their voices** in support of strong, science-based protections. As agencies move forward with listening sessions and internal deliberations, we're making it clear: **businesses need clean water to thrive.**

And while we pushed back against regulatory rollbacks, we also took that message straight to Congress.

In late March, our steering committee joined the **Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed** and **Friends of the Upper Delaware River** on Capitol Hill to advocate for robust federal investment in the **Delaware River Basin Restoration Program**—a program that directly protects the same kinds of waterways that could be left vulnerable under a weakened WOTUS definition.

We met with staff from Senator Gillibrand's office and other New York lawmakers to press for:

- A funding increase to **\$17 million (from \$11 million)**
- Resolution of delays caused by the federal funding freeze, affecting **22 existing restoration projects**
- Protection of the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**, which supports local parks, working lands, and the outdoor economy

Since 2018, the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program has supported **239 projects**, leveraged more than **\$100 million** in matching funds, and created hundreds of jobs—while delivering clean water to **14 million people** and providing over **\$21 billion annually** in ecosystem services.

Whether it's federal rulemaking or the congressional budget process, the message remains the same: **clean water is good for business.** And we're making sure business voices are not only heard—but impossible to ignore.



ACTION ALERT!

Funding freezes, tariffs, the dismantling of many federal agencies, and everything in between, are creating unprecedented challenges for the business community. We're collecting stories to amplify our collective voice and push for meaningful change. [Tell Your Story today](#) and use [this handy toolkit](#) to share this opportunity with others in your next work.

Updates From Across the Watershed

Investing in the Basin: Advocating for Clean Water Funding in the Delaware River Watershed

Each year, Congress decides how federal funds are allocated—a process called appropriations. This determines funding for vital programs, including clean water infrastructure, watershed restoration, and environmental protections that support our communities and local economies. An appropriations request is a formal ask to Congress to fund specific programs in the annual budget.





(Continued) Investing in the Basin: Advocating for Clean Water Funding in the Delaware River Watershed

We're calling for an increased investment in the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program, which has already proven its value by **funding 239 projects since 2018 and attracting over \$100 million in matching investments**. We're also urging robust funding for EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds so local governments have the tools to build and maintain safe, modern water systems. We're also emphasizing the need for stable federal staffing and strong interagency coordination to guarantee that these vital investments are implemented effectively and deliver lasting results.

The Delaware River Basin is an economic powerhouse, **supporting \$25 billion in annual economic activity and 600,000 jobs and providing clean drinking water to 14 million people**. These investments are more than environmental imperatives; they are fundamental to our region's long-term economic stability and growth. By advocating for these measures, we are not only protecting a critical natural resource but also securing the foundation upon which our businesses and communities prosper.

Read our full letter [here](#).

EPA Targets Better Water Quality in the Delaware River

The EPA has proposed new rules to raise dissolved oxygen levels in the Delaware River—a **move that would support fish habitat and help restore ecological balance**. While some wastewater treatment operators are concerned about compliance costs, improved water quality offers long-term benefits for local economies, tourism, recreation, and waterfront development. Clean, healthy rivers attract investment and reduce public health risks—creating a more stable operating environment for business.

[!\[\]\(cf531ed27e91483460120fcc057b3901_img.jpg\) **Read more at NJ Spotlight News**](#)



Dam Removals Strengthen Watershed Resilience

With eleven dams recently removed across the Delaware River Basin, partners like Wildlands Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy are restoring natural flows, boosting fish populations, and reducing flood risks. These projects open new opportunities for eco-tourism, lower infrastructure maintenance costs, and support outdoor recreation industries—all of which rely on healthy, connected waterways. It's a clear example of how ecological restoration fuels economic resilience.

[!\[\]\(a870788d6ed9b8fd294b7654a8c8526b_img.jpg\) Learn more from Delaware Currents](#)

Earth Day Advocacy in Albany: Advancing Clean Water Protections and More

Over 100 advocates participated in the annual **Earth Day Advocacy Day**, a key opportunity to advance a slate of legislation that protects our environment and citizens (see [press release](#)). After a morning educational program and press event, multiple teams met with 54 legislators.

Clean water and water resource protection were a significant focus, with a “Protecting Water Resources” track covering several bills, including:

- **PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act:** Expands testing for toxic “forever chemicals” in discharges into New York's lakes, rivers, and groundwater, providing greater transparency to the public and policymakers about the extent of PFAS pollution entering our waters. This will aid policymakers in the development of future regulations.
- **Rain Ready Act:** Clarifies the definition of “stormwater” in New York law, removing any confusion about the ability of water utility authorities to protect water quality, address local flooding, and implement green infrastructure, enabling them to prioritize projects for climate resilience and water quality improvements.



(Continued) Earth Day Advocacy in Albany: Advancing Clean Water Protections and More

In addition to the “Protecting Water Resources” track, the “Environmental Health & Justice” track covered **key legislation banning PFAS** from a wide range of consumer products where safer alternatives exist. As these chemicals are pervasive in major water supplies across the US, stopping PFAS at its source is critical in protecting our water. Contact water@ny-sbc.org to learn more about this event and other New York policy efforts.



National Update

In late April and early May, the EPA and Army Corps completed their comment period and convened listening sessions to gather insights on defining what bodies of water, such as wetlands and tributaries, remain protected under the Clean Water Act. Your comments made an impact but the rulemaking process has only just begun.

As agencies draft the proposed definition of “Waters of the United States,” every additional example of how healthy waterways support your bottom line, workforce safety, and community resilience shared with policymakers and the public will strengthen the case for science-based safeguards.

Tell your story: Briefly describe how your operations, workforce, or bottom line depend on healthy streams and wetlands. [[Click Here](#)]

Together, we'll ensure policymakers understand that strong water protections mean stronger businesses now and into the future.



What We're Reading!!

NRDC analysis map & report: The Natural Resources Defense Council has released a detailed analysis of the potential impacts of the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett v. EPA* and their impacts by state. Because the administration is inviting comment on weakened interpretations of the Court's ruling, you can look at the effects under NRDC's "More Damaging and Most Damaging" scenarios as indicators of what further rollbacks would mean for your state. [Read "Mapping Destruction" here.](#)

Making Waves: Steering Committee Spotted!

DRBC Hosts "Water & Waste" Roundtable with sustainability leader TerraCycle

This spring, *Clean Water is Good for Business* steering committee member Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) brought together public and private sector leaders for a **"Water & Waste" roundtable** at TerraCycle's headquarters in Trenton, N.J.

The event created space for dynamic cross-sector conversations on how waste management intersects with water quality and why clean water is foundational to a healthy economy. Participants, including Clean Water Is Good For Business executive committee member New Jersey Sustainable Business Council (NJSBC) and local elected officials, emphasized the economic impacts of water pollution, treatment infrastructure, and innovative reuse strategies.

Hosted under DRBC's Our Shared Waters initiative, the roundtable highlighted the importance of collaboration in protecting the Delaware River Basin's shared water resources. The message was clear: **clean water protections are smart, strategic economic policies.**



Left to Right:

N.J. Assemblywoman Melina Kane (NJ-6);
DRBC's Avery Lentini; TerraCycle's Eric
Ascalon; NJSBC's Richard Lawton; and DRBC's
Beth Brown.

Photo by the DRBC.



Learn more:

- [TerraCycle](#)
- [DRBC's Microplastics Study](#)
- [Our Shared Waters](#)
- [ASBN's Clean Water is Good for Business](#)



The American Sustainable Business Network's “***Clean Water is Good for Business***” campaign engages businesses in the Delaware River Watershed and across the U.S. to make the economic case for sensible clean water protections. We are excited to share our collective efforts to protect our water and build a more just and sustainable economy. If you are a business leader concerned about protecting the Delaware River Watershed or other watersheds across the U.S., please join our campaign by contacting **Liza LaManna** (lamanna@asbnetwork.org), ASBN's Agriculture Policy Manager.

