



The Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2026

Sens. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)

Endorsed by: Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, Delaware Nature Society, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, National Parks Conservation Association, National Audubon Society, Appalachian Mountain Club, National Wildlife Federation, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, American Rivers Action Fund, Friends of the Upper Delaware, PennFuture, Friends of the Wissahiscon, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, American Sustainable Business Council, Riverways Collaboration

Cosponsors: Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Chris Coons (D-DE), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Andy Kim (D-NJ), John Fetterman (D-PA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD)

Economic and Environmental Benefits of the Delaware River Basin

The Delaware River Basin drains through New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, providing drinking water to more than 13 million people while supporting a water-based economy of nearly \$25 billion. The Delaware River Basin is directly or indirectly responsible for **600,000 jobs and \$10 billion in annual wages**, but federal spending for the Basin is consistently less than for comparable river basins. The Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act reauthorizes the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program, which provides key funding to improve water quality, reduce flooding, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and enhance safe recreation access for the public. This bill will support a healthy Delaware River Basin, leading to a stronger economy, improved health, and greater outdoor recreation opportunities.

Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act

- Extending program authorization through 2033 to ensure long-term conservation and restoration efforts.
- Expanding the official definition of the Delaware River Basin to include Maryland, recognizing the state's ecological and economic contributions to the watershed.
- Prioritizing projects that serve small, rural, and disadvantaged communities, ensuring equitable access to federal conservation resources.

For questions or to cosponsor, please contact Nate Robinson in Sen. Blunt Rochester's office, nathan_robinson@bluntrochester.senate.gov.