

RES 19-008

Wilmington, Delaware
April 4, 2019

#4638

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Turner

Co-Sponsors:

Council
Members
Gray
Oliver

WHEREAS, affordable, high-quality, and reliable fresh water is critical to the everyday lives of Delawareans, the stability and competitiveness of the state's economy, and Delaware's future economic development; and

WHEREAS, our economy is driven by agriculture and natural resource utilization, both of which are dependent on Delaware's jurisdictional waters. Federal policy changes over the last decade have left these streams and wetlands vulnerable to degradation or destruction; and

WHEREAS, while nature provides water, it takes pipes, pumps, treatment plants, and people working everyday to deliver clean, safe water to our homes and businesses, and then remove and treat wastewater so it can safely be returned to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming weight of scientific evidence has confirmed that headwater streams and wetlands significantly affect the quantity and quality of water in larger bodies of water downstream and provide a wide variety of beneficial ecosystem services; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is Delaware's oldest, largest, and most valuable industry that relies on access to and the efficient use of water resources for the production of a diverse range of food and fiber for domestic and export markets; and

WHEREAS, municipalities depend on the Governor of Delaware and Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to adopt policies and regulations allocating a safe, sustainable supply of Delaware's water resources, establishing monitoring and accountability mechanisms and ensuring affordable services for everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that City Council and its constituent calls on the Delaware General Assembly to apply public trust principles in developing long-term natural resource stewardship and management to protect the paramount interests of the public over those private entities, and the protection of waterways for the benefit of current and future generations.

Passed by City Council,
April 4, 2019

Attest: Maribel Dejo
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: The human right to water and to sanitation constitutes the right of every individual, without discrimination, to sufficient, safe, acceptable, accessible and affordable water and sanitation for personal use. This Resolution urges the Delaware General Assembly to enact legislation addressing ways to enhance water resource management, utilization and ecosystem restoration, affirming Delaware's commitment to ensuring affordable, accessible, acceptable and safe water sufficient to protect the health and dignity of Delaware residents.