



For Immediate Release:

June 28, 2017

Contacts:

Maya van Rossum, The Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215-369-1188 ext.102

Concerned Delaware Residents Opposing HB190 Testify Before the State Senate

Dover, DE - [HB190](#), a bill recently proposed by Representative Osienski and others containing drastic amendments to the [Coastal Zone Act](#), has moved through the House and made its way to the Senate Natural Resources Committee, and may head to the Senate floor for a full vote tomorrow. The proposed amendments would allow expanded heavy industry and new bulk product transfer facilities in the Delaware Coastal Zone, and would allow multiple heavy industries to be sited dangerously close to one another. The bill would overall weaken the protection of Delaware's pristine coastline and ecosystem which jeopardizes the hundreds of millions of dollars Delaware receives via tourism.

A coalition of organizations and community members turned out to a Senate Committee hearing on the bill on Wednesday June 28th, asking the Committee and the full Senate to vote no on HB190, and to instead thoroughly study the environmental and economic benefits of the Coastal Zone Act as it stands today.

"The Coastal Zone is a crucial ecological element of a healthy river system. Delaware has, as we all know, been a leader in its protection. And yet today, with the threat of HB 190 looming, Delaware is poised to take a huge step backward, one that places the state on a slippery slope that will inevitably lead to more rollbacks of the protections of Delaware's Coastal Zone Act," stated Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, in written testimony.

Delaware's historic Coastal Zone Act has been in place since June 28, 1971. The Act recognizes that Delaware's coastal areas are "the most critical" for quality of life. It is the goal of the CZA to "protect the natural environment of [the] bay and coastal areas" and to "safeguard their use *primarily for recreation and tourism*." The Act limits new heavy industry uses and the bulk transfer of products in the Coastal Zone, and has protected the vast majority of Delaware's coast since its inception. The Act states that heavy industry is incompatible with protection of the natural environment and that bulk product transfer presents significant danger of pollution in the coastal zone. Those opposing the bill argue that HB 190 would drastically weaken the Coastal Zone Act and undermine its purpose by allowing for new bulk product transfer and increased heavy industry within the Coastal Zone.

###

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
drm@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org