



For Immediate Release:

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Delaware Rolls Back Years of Coastal Protections

Dover, DE- On June 29, 2017, HB190, a bill proposed by Representative Osienski and others containing drastic amendments to the Coastal Zone Act (CZA), was passed by the Delaware Senate in an 18-2-1 vote. The bill amends the CZA to allow expanded heavy industry and new bulk product transfer facilities in the Delaware Coastal Zone, allowing 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.

Today's vote follows the Senate Natural Resources Committee Hearing on Wednesday June 28th where organizations and concerned citizens turned out to testify in opposition to HB190. "The bill is a rollback in protection that is neither needed nor wanted from an ecological, economic, public health, or safety perspective. The passage of this bill is an incredible betrayal of the public trust," says Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.

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.

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.

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