

**MEDIA ADVISORY:**

For Planning Purposes

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**FARNESE, DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK NEWS CONFERENCE ON ANTI-SLAPP SUIT  
LEGISLATION**

**Philadelphia – Sept. 11, 2017** -- Sen. Larry Farnese and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network will hold a news conference on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the Mayor’s Reception Room of Philadelphia City Hall to discuss the misuse of SLAPP suits to silence community opposition to development and to discuss Farnese’s anti-SLAPP legislation.

Farnese’s measure is designed to prevent the misuse of the legal system to stifle legal challenges. SLAPP suits, or strategic lawsuit against public participation, are designed to hinder community groups by burdening them with legal fees and intimidating outspoken community members with legal action.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network and others who will attend are recent victims of SLAPP suit litigation. They will discuss the burdensome impact such misuse of the law inflicts.

A recent lawsuit against Delaware Riverkeeper Network was dismissed with the judge asserting that the organization’s organizing and advocacy challenging a brownfields development project by developer Brian O’Neill was *“constitutionally protected free speech under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the Pennsylvania Constitution.”*

**WHO:** State Sen. Larry Farnese, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

**WHAT:** News conference about Anti-SLAPP suit legislation

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Mayor’s Reception Room, Philadelphia City Hall, Philadelphia

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