

Castle Votes for Package of Bills to Expand Infrastructure Projects, Authorizes Almost \$18 Billion in Water Quality Funding -- March 9, 2007

Washington D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today voted for the Water Quality Financing Act which authorizes adequate funding for clean-water programs and infrastructure projects which continue to be a high priority in Delaware with the expansion in Kent and Sussex County and general aging sewer infrastructure statewide. In particular, today's legislation expands the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund which makes low interest loans to states for water quality improvement projects, wastewater treatment facility upgrades, septic system elimination projects, and septic system rehabilitation projects, among other things.

Earlier in the week, Castle voted for two additional pieces of legislation which fund federal grants to communities to replace or repair sewer systems to prevent the release of overflows and for usable water in communities by treating and reusing wastewater. In total, the three pieces of legislation provide close to \$18 billion in federal funding over the next five years for these critical water quality programs.

"This important package of bills which I voted for this week represents the important steps Congress is taking to ensure adequate infrastructure is in place in the United States. I realize that in Delaware, particularly with the constant growth taking place in Kent and Sussex County and the general aging sewer infrastructure statewide, there is a great need for these federal grants so that every resident can be assured that their community has the necessary resources to provide clean water. I am especially pleased by the expansion of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund which plays a key role in Delaware's wastewater treatment and septic system rehabilitation," Castle said.

Summaries of all three Water Quality bills passed this week in the House are copied below:

- Water Quality Investment Act (H.R. 569): Authorizes \$1.8 billion over five years for federal grants to communities to replace or repair sewer systems to prevent the release of overflow, which is raw sewage due to excessive precipitation or system breakdowns.
- Healthy Communities Water Supply (H.R. 700): Authorizes \$125 million to restart a pilot program providing federal grants to provide usable water for communities by treating and reusing wastewater.
- Water Quality Financing Act (H.R. 720): Authorizes \$14 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund. It also authorizes an additional \$2 billion for three other clean water programs run by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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