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Funds To Improve Environment, Federal Money Relieves Local Taxpayers Of Cost

Washington, DC -- Congressmen Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ8) today announced that the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC), which is responsible for treating the sewage of 47 North Jersey towns, including 17 in Rothman's Congressional District, will receive \$400,000 in new federal funds to modernize its overburdened and outdated system. Rothman used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to help secure these funds as part of the final spending bill for Fiscal Year 2005. The modernization of the PVSC will result in less pollution and thus a cleaner Passaic River.

"The Passaic Valley's sewer system now combines storm water and sanitary sewers," Rothman said. "Unfortunately, as a result of heavy rains, this combination often overloads the existing PVSC treatment system and causes untreated waste to be discharged into the Passaic River. These federal funds will allow the PVSC to modernize the sewer system to not only keep sewage out of the Passaic River, but to save local taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in unnecessary treatment of storm water. This appropriation of federal money will have a positive and far-reaching impact on the progress needed to cleanup the Passaic River."

"Although sewerage issues are not on most people's priority lists, this is an essential task that must be addressed," stated Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-Paterson). "PVSC operates one of the largest wastewater treatment plants in the nation, treating wastewater from more than one million people. Once this project is completed, the positive effects of a cleaner Passaic River will be felt by residents in towns along the entire waterway - from the Great Falls to the Newark Bay, and beyond. This funding secured in a bipartisan fashion will enable the PVSC to provide relief for costs that would otherwise be picked up by our towns and cities."

Rothman said the new federal appropriation demonstrates the strong financial partnership that exists between federal, state, and local government. "As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I look forward to doing my part in the months and years ahead to ensure that the resources of the federal government continue to be brought home to help clean-up the Passaic River, Hackensack River, Newark Bay and the Jersey Shore," Rothman said. "In this instance, by bringing in federal money to help the PVSC we are cleaning up our environment and making the communities along the Passaic River more attractive to new residents and businesses, while sparing local property taxpayers from the cost of the cleanup."

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