

## Rothman Helps Announce Plan To Clean & Restore Passaic River

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Says Initiative Will Improve Quality Of Life For Local Residents,  
Boost Economy; Vows To Hold Polluters Accountable

Newark, NJ - In an effort to improve the environment, enhance the quality of life for local residents, and boost the region's economy, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today helped announce a major new, federal initiative to clean and restore the Passaic River. Rothman was joined by Congressmen Bob Menendez (D-NJ13), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ8), Donald Payne (D-NJ10), and Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ11), along with local elected officials for the official announcement of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) and the Army Corps' selection of the Lower Passaic River as one of eight pilot projects in a new initiative to cleanup urban degraded rivers, while holding polluters accountable, called the Urban River Restoration Initiative (URRI),

"This federal designation and study agreement mark a new beginning in our efforts to revitalize the historic cities and towns that lie along the lower Passaic River's edge. A cleaned-up Passaic River will bring new business to these communities, giving the region's economy a shot in the arm and improving residents' quality of life," Rothman said. "That said, as this historic initiative moves forward, the EPA and Army Corps must ensure that the parties who discharged literally tons of deadly toxins and industrial contaminants into the river are held accountable for their actions and are made to pay the costs of the river's cleanup."

The new program on the Passaic, termed the Passaic River Restoration Initiative (PRRI), is aimed at finding and implementing comprehensive solutions to the complex contamination problems facing 17 miles of the lower Passaic River between Newark Bay and the Dundee Dam in Garfield. A study of the best way to clean the Passaic River will be first conducted, followed by the actual restoration.

"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 are brought to bear on the effort to clean up the Passaic River and the efforts to hold the polluters responsible," Rothman said. "By bringing in these federal agencies and federal money to clean the Passaic River, we are not only cleaning up our environment and making our communities more attractive to new residents and businesses, we are sparing local property taxpayers from the cost of this study and cleanup."

The PRRI will be managed jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, and New Jersey Office of Maritime Resources, working in conjunction with the Department of the Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

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