

100th Anniversary of Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission

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Rothman Announces New Funds, Celebrates
100th Anniversary of Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission

Newark, NJ - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today joined New Jersey Governor James McGreevey, Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ8), Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ11), and other leaders in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC), which is responsible for the treatment of sewage in 47 North Jersey towns, including municipalities in Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties. Rothman, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, also took the occasion to announce that he has secured that Committee's approval of \$2.5 million in new funds to help modernize the PVSC's system, which has been overburdened as a result of combined sewer overflows.

"Because of its age, the Passaic Valley's sewer system now combines storm water and sanitary sewers," Rothman said. "Unfortunately, this combination often can overload this system, and cause untreated waste to be discharged into the Passaic River. These federal dollars will allow the PVSC to modernize the sewer system to not only keep sewage out of our waterways, but to save local taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in unnecessary treatment of storm water. This will help make the next 100 years for the PVSC better than the first. I was delighted to have helped get \$2.5 million for this modernization project last year, and I am very pleased that it looks like we will be getting \$2.5 million more."

PVSC is currently working to modernize its facility in order to reduce the pollution from the combined sewer overflow system prevalent throughout the region, which will help clean up the Passaic River. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Rothman helped secure \$2.5 million in federal funding last year for this modernization effort, and just last week got the approval of the Appropriations Committee for an additional \$2.5 million.

"As the father of two children, I recognize the importance of protecting our waterways and our environment as a whole for future generations," Rothman said. "Throughout its 100 year history, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission has had leaders who have maintained a strong vision and commitment to that very goal of protecting the environment and cleaning up the Passaic River. While this historic facility is the foresight of the people before us, we still have work to do to keep up with the times and make sure our water is clean."

The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners was formed in 1902 by a special act of the State Legislature to reduce pollution of the Passaic River and its tributaries. The PVSC plant is one of the largest and most modern in the world. It services the wastewater needs of 5,000 commercial and industrial users located within 47 communities in Essex, Hudson, Bergen and Passaic Counties with a total population of about 1.3 million. It is located on a 155 acre site adjacent to Newark Airport in Newark, NJ and processes about 330 million gallons per day, which is estimated to be 25 percent of the total wastewater generated in all of New Jersey.

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