

Congressman Rothman's Statement about the EPA Settlement with Companies to Remove Pollutants from a Portion of the Passaic

Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) expressed cautious optimism about the announcement of the first phase of a legal settlement between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and two companies responsible for polluting the Passaic River.

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Rothman's Teen Safety Measure Passes House (Hackensack, NJ)—On June 23, 2008, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) expressed cautious optimism about the announcement of the first phase of a legal settlement between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and two companies responsible for polluting the Passaic River. This agreement calls for Occidental Chemical and Tierra Solutions to spend an estimated \$80 million to clean up 200,000 cubic yards of toxic waste from a three-and-a-half mile stretch at the mouth of the Passaic River, with the payment and clean-up of remaining areas still under negotiation.

“I am pleased that the EPA, Occidental Chemical and Tierra Solutions have reached a settlement to start removing toxins from a portion of our beloved Passaic River. I commend the parties to this dispute for making progress to begin to restore the Passaic River. However, it is long past time for the parties to complete negotiations on all outstanding issues between them that will then allow for the payment and clean-up of the rest of the Passaic River.

“Given how long New Jerseyans have waited for action, I am hopeful that this phase of the clean-up will be undertaken without delay. I look forward to the resolution of the other issues between these parties so that they can assume responsibility and make reparations for the rest of the pollution. I would also urge other companies to follow the lead of Occidental Chemical and Tierra Solutions and take responsibility and make restitution for polluting the Passaic,” said Rothman.

For the past several years, Rothman has met with many of the stakeholders of this agreement in an effort to find an equitable solution that requires the parties responsible for the contamination to pay for the restoration of one of New Jersey’s most important waterways.

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