

August 23, 2016

Shawn Garvin  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Mr. Garvin,

As community and municipal leaders we would like to thank you for your years of leadership in working with our region to achieve clean water. We care deeply about our constituents' water quality, increasing water and sewer bills, and the cost that municipalities, and ultimately ratepayers, will be forced to bear for our region's clean water compliance investment. With these priorities in mind, we are concerned about the direction of ALCOSAN's tunnel plan. With our region's Consent Decree set to be signed shortly, it is our responsibility as community leaders to advocate for a data-driven plan that is cost-effective, improves our region's water quality, and provides as many ancillary environmental and economic benefits as possible. We know that we are required to make this multi-billion dollar investment, the largest ever public works project in our region. We truly want this investment to be made in a smart and equitable way.

We believe that the most efficient way to clean our rivers is to fix our current sewer system, expand the capacity of our treatment plant, invest in a comprehensive regional green infrastructure plan that maximizes community benefits, and only then build new, appropriate and right sized gray infrastructure.

We are seeing other communities around the country choosing to invest in a green first plan that revitalizes neighborhoods and creates jobs. As leaders in our communities we want a plan that brings these benefits to our constituents along with clean water. A watershed level, regional plan that implements green solutions at scale will lower costs for our ratepayers and municipalities, help revitalize our neighborhoods by providing maximum community benefits, and provide opportunities for public-private partnerships to invest in innovative, compliance driven green infrastructure projects.

As alternative models to clean our rivers and bring our sewer and stormwater management systems into the 21st century emerge and are validated, we ask that they be included in the ALCOSAN Consent Decree. Our region needs the appropriate time and transparent regulatory mechanisms to ensure that the best plans can be brought forward and fully incorporated into our compliance investment. We do not wish to delay, but rather start right away to upgrade and maintain our current system while implementing and evaluating a sustainable plan for our region. We, as leaders and ratepayers, deserve clean water now, and we deserve a plan that will maximize investment in strategic green infrastructure that builds our communities.

Sincerely,

Kate Abel, Council Member  
**Dormont Borough\***

Chris Beichner, President & CEO  
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**Pittsburgh\***

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**Allegheny County Clean Air Now**

\* These individuals have endorsed in their personal capacity and their signature does not reflect the endorsement of any organization, corporation, or entity to which they are affiliated. Titles and affiliations of each individual are provided for identification purposes only.

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