



National Wildlife Federation

Great Lakes Regional Center

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May 29, 2018

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Office of the Governor
2017 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Governor John Kasich
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

The Honorable Eric Holcomb
Office of the Governor
200 W. Washington St., Rm 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Governor Tom Wolf
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Matt Bevin
700 Capital Ave., Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Governor Ralph Northam
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Jim Justice
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E
Charleston, WV 23505

Dear Governors,

On behalf of the below conservation organizations representing thousands of people in the Ohio River Basin watershed, we are writing to request your states' support for upholding its commitment to regional collaboration in the oversight of water quality for the Ohio River. A multi-state commission, the Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission, known as ORSANCO, is proposing to withdraw from its role in maintaining, administering, and periodically updating the current Pollution Control Standards required under the Clean Water Act.

ORSANCO was created as an interstate water pollution control agency in part to ensure that water quality in one state doesn't have a negative effect on the

waters of another state. In 1948 the governors of the basin states signed the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Compact to ensure "...faithful cooperation in the control of future pollution in and abatement of existing pollution from the rivers, streams and water in the Ohio River basin..." as stated in Article 1 of the Compact. The Compact articulates the vision the states had to work together for clean water protections that allowed the Ohio River to successfully support industry and commerce, as well as provide clean drinking water for people and a home for fish and wildlife.

The member states of ORSANCO, (the recipients to this letter) each have two or three gubernatorial appointed commissioners to this regional body. Next month, on June 7, ORSANCO commissioners will make a decision about whether to withdraw from its regional role in the Pollution Control Standards program. We respectfully request that your appointees to ORSANCO reject any action that diminishes the role of ORSANCO in the Pollution Control Standards program.

The Ohio River is an important resource as a working river for cargo transport, a source of drinking water for five million people, a place for recreation along its 981 mile length and a home for diverse habitat for wildlife and fish. There is a need for leadership and cooperation by the Commission *and* its member states to honor the pledges made by each state for the oversight of pollution abatement and health of the entire Ohio River. The Commission Compact compels the member states to act on behalf of a water body beyond its jurisdictional waters, a unique role that demands actions beyond parochial interests.

Sincerely,

Gail Hesse
Great Lakes Water Program Director
National Wildlife Federation
Great Lakes Regional Center

Angie Rosser
Executive Director
West Virginia Rivers Coalition

Jen Mihills
Regional Executive Director
National Wildlife Federation
Mid-Atlantic Region

Emily Wood
Executive Director
Indiana Wildlife Federation

Matt Misicka
President
Ohio Conservation Federation

Ward Wilson
Executive Director
Kentucky Waterways Alliance

Carol Hays
Executive Director
Prairie Rivers Network

Jacquelyn Bonomo
President and CEO
PennFuture

Mary Rafferty
Executive Director
Virginia Conservation Network