

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 5, 2007

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SRBC HONORS FORMER STATE SENATOR NOAH WENGER
Contributions to agriculture and protection of water resources cited

LANCASTER, Pa. – Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) today recognized former State Senator Noah Wenger (Dist. 36, Lancaster) for his outstanding contributions to the agricultural industry in the Susquehanna watershed and for his unwavering commitment to protecting the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. SRBC honored the senator at its quarterly business meeting at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster.

SRBC especially recognized Senator Wenger for spearheading the 2006 initiative in the General Assembly that provided SRBC's \$6.1 million contribution toward securing 15.7 million gallons of water per day to replace the amount used by Pennsylvania farmers in the Susquehanna watershed. SRBC currently is securing replacement water through the Lancashire water treatment project in Cambria County, Pa., and planning additional water storage projects. The replacement water is to reduce stress on aquatic habitat and species during times of severe droughts, while removing the burden of individual farmers to comply with SRBC's consumptive use regulatory requirement.

"Senator Wenger's foresight paved the way for an historic vote at the Commission's business meeting today in support of the agricultural industry and environmental protection," said Paul Swartz, SRBC Executive Director. "The commissioners unanimously determined that the low flow augmentation project underway at the Lancashire site and also at the Whitney Point Lake in New York satisfy SRBC's requirement that the impacts of agricultural water use be addressed and relieved."

Swartz said, "For more than 15 years, the Commission has worked doggedly with agricultural interests in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland to find such solutions. Today, thanks to Senator Wenger in Pennsylvania, Senator Thomas Libous in New York, and other policy makers and our partner agencies, we have a win for farmers and the environment."

Senator Wenger's legislative career spanned 30 years. Among his other accomplishments, he created the state's farmland preservation program; introduced the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) of 2007 to provide tax credits for implementing practices, including improvements to barnyards, pastures and riparian corridors, implementing nutrient management plans and remediating legacy sediments and other practices; sponsored the Conservation District Fund of 2006 that established a special non-lapsing fund for conservation district programs; and helped secure funding in 2001 to continue the crop insurance program.

While in office, Senator Wenger held important leadership positions, including Chairman of Majority Caucus, Chairman of Senate Appropriations Committee and member of the Senate Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee. Senator Wenger also served on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative commission.

SRBC – headquartered in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania – was established in 1971 and has as its members the federal government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Among its many water management responsibilities, SRBC regulates large water withdrawals and consumptive uses, mitigates flood damages, coordinates drought management activities and assists its members in a number of water quality programs, including nutrient and sediment monitoring, assessment, restoration and protection projects.

The Susquehanna River Basin is a 27,510-square-mile area that covers portions of southern tier New York, about half of Pennsylvania and a portion of Maryland. The Susquehanna River starts in Cooperstown, N.Y., and flows 444 miles to Havre de Grace, Md., where the river meets the Chesapeake Bay. SRBC web site is www.srbc.net.

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