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Testimony of the League of Women Voters of Delaware, Inc.

**Testimony In favor of HB 200**

Before the House Natural Resources Committee  
151<sup>st</sup> General Assembly January 2021

The League of Women Voters of Delaware (LWVDE) urges the members of this Committee to favorably consider HB 200, the Clean Water for Delaware Act. We believe that clean drinking water should be considered a basic human right.

This Act would assess the problems and plan for projects to address situations resulting from failures to protect Delaware's water. Currently, the majority of Delaware's waters do not meet clean water standards for their designated purpose (drinking water, swimming, fishing, etc.)

The planned projects would be funded by a Clean Water Trust account, overseen by a variety of experts in state and local government and the public. Monies to support the Trust will come from appropriations, including supplements to the bond bill, from principal and interest on loans and from interest on investments.

Annual reports would ensure that progress is monitored and that all citizens will see what has been done. The reports should also cover what is planned for the upcoming year. Transparent reports, open to the public, should educate the public about our serious water problems but also give them confidence that they will be properly addressed. Passage of this bill will open the path to properly addressing our many serious water problems. Thank you for your work on it.

*Testimony by Coralie Pryde & Charlie Garlow,  
Natural Resources Committee Co-Chairs  
and registered lobbyists for LWVDE*