



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT S. ARACE
Commissioner

P.O. BOX 2191 • 101 HOOPER AVENUE
TOMS RIVER, NJ 08754

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April 25, 2025

Congressman Chris Smith
33 Washington Street
P.O. Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08754-0728

RE: Support for Manchester Township Clean Water Project

Dear Congressman Smith,

I am writing to express my full support for Mayor Hankins' request regarding the Manchester Township Clean Water Project. This initiative is essential to addressing the longstanding PFOS contamination impacting the eastern portion of the Township—contamination that has been directly linked to activities at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

While the Joint Base has demonstrated a willingness to cooperate and provide limited assistance, the funding they are able to offer falls well short of what is required to fully address the scope of the problem. Federal grant support is critical to bridging that gap and ensuring that the Township is not left to shoulder the burden of an issue it did not create.

As you know, access to safe and clean drinking water is not only a fundamental public health necessity—it is the foundation of economic stability, environmental protection, and quality of life. The planned improvements to infrastructure and filtration systems will benefit thousands of families and businesses, while also restoring confidence in the long-term safety of our local water supply.

On behalf of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners, I respectfully urge your continued advocacy in securing federal support for this vital project. Your voice will be instrumental in helping us bring this effort to completion.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the residents of Ocean County.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Arace
Commissioner
Ocean County Board of Commissioners



MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

1 COLONIAL DRIVE • MANCHESTER, NJ 08759 • (732)657-8121

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JOSEPH T. HANKINS
MAYOR

April 22, 2025

Honorable Congressman Christopher H. Smith (NJ-04)
33 Washington Street
PO Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08753

RE: Planning Board: Manchester Township Clean Water Project

Dear Congressman Smith,

The Manchester Township Planning Board fully endorses the Manchester Township Clean Water Project, a critical endeavor aimed at resolving the PFOS contamination issue and guaranteeing access to clean and safe water for our community.

Despite the assistance provided by JBMDL in Lakehurst, their funding falls short of meeting the project's financial needs. The grant we are pursuing would help alleviate the Township's financial burden, filling the gap left by JBMDL's support. This project marks the initial phase of a series of essential initiatives to comprehensively tackle PFOS contamination in our area.

Through infrastructure upgrades and the implementation of advanced filtration systems, the project will directly benefit both residents and local businesses. Furthermore, it will serve as a crucial measure in mitigating environmental impacts and safeguarding our natural resources.

We strongly advocate for the prioritization of funding for the Manchester Township Clean Water Project. Your consideration of our endorsement and your ongoing commitment to the well-being of our constituents are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Barro', is written over a horizontal line.

Planning Board
Manchester Township



MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JOSEPH T. HANKINS
MAYOR

April 22, 2025

Honorable Congressman Christopher H. Smith (NJ-04)
33 Washington Street
PO Box 728 Toms River, NJ 08753

RE: Environmental Commission: Manchester Township Clean Water Project

Dear Congressman Smith,

The Manchester Township Environmental Commission stands in full support of the Manchester Township Clean Water Project. This crucial initiative addresses the pressing issue of PFOS contamination, ensuring access to clean and safe water for our community.

While JBMDL in Lakehurst has offered assistance, their funding is insufficient to cover the project's requirements. The grant we seek would alleviate the financial burden on the Township, bridging the gap left by JBMDL's aid. This project marks the initial step in a series of necessary endeavors to comprehensively address PFOS contamination.

By upgrading infrastructure and implementing advanced filtration systems, the project will benefit residents and local businesses. Moreover, it will play a vital role in mitigating environmental impacts and preserving natural resources.

We strongly advocate for prioritizing funding for the Manchester Township Clean Water Project. Your consideration of our support and your continued dedication to our constituents' well-being are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sarah L. Drake".

Environmental Commission
Manchester Township



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JOSEPH T. HANKINS
MAYOR

April 22, 2025

Congressman Chris Smith
33 Washington Street
PO Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08754-0728

RE: Mayor Hankins Letter of Support: Manchester Township Clean Water Project

Dear Congressman Smith,

I am writing in full support of the Manchester Township Clean Water Project. This initiative is crucial for addressing water quality issues, specifically high levels of PFOS, to ensure clean and safe water for our community.

The source of the contamination is due to the actions of JBMDL in Lakehurst, and they have been working with us to the extent that they are able, but they cannot provide the full amount of funding that is needed. The money coming from this grant would help cover the burden on the Township for what is left after the JBMDL aid. This is the beginning of the many necessary projects to remedy the PFOS contamination issue.

Access to clean water is essential for public health and economic development. The project will upgrade infrastructure and implement advanced filtration systems, benefiting residents and local businesses alike. Additionally, it will help mitigate environmental impacts and preserve natural resources for future generations.

I urge prioritization of funding for the Manchester Township Clean Water Project as it will have a significant and positive impact on the well-being of our community. Thank you for considering my support and for your dedication to addressing critical issues affecting our constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph T. Hankins".

Joseph T. Hankins
Mayor of Manchester Township