



Ohio River Basin Congressional Caucus

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Welcome from Alan Vicory, Executive Director

Welcome to this, the first "Report of the Ohio River Basin Congressional Caucus" from ORSANCO. ORSANCO is initiating these periodic reports as a means to, at a glance, advise you of key developments and issues here in the Ohio Valley and keep the lines of communication strong and productive.

Let me start by expressing my sincere appreciation of your commitment to

participate. The Caucus was created to focus needed attention and federal funding to help resolve the many water quality issues that we face in this water rich and nationally important region. The Ohio River Basin is comprised of parts of 15 states in the Nation's heartland and is represented by 28 Senators and 55 Congressmen. To date, 15 Members of Congress have agreed to participate as

members of the caucus. *We hope to schedule the inaugural meeting of the Caucus in January. This meeting will be a primer on Ohio River and Ohio River Valley developments and issues.* As Executive Director, I look forward to meeting and working with each of you and your staffs on identifying programmatic needs and funding options that will assure that this valley's greatest asset, water, is protected for ours and future generations. Of course, please contact me at any time (avicory@orsanco.org Tel: 513-231-7719) for answers to your questions or other assistance I might provide.

FY 11 Appropriations Help ODS Protect Drinking Water

Thanks to Senators Robert Byrd (D-WV) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH), for securing 3 congressionally sponsored grants totaling \$2.5 million for the Commission's Organics Detection System (ODS). The ODS is a world-class pollution detection system designed to detect chemicals and protect the source of water for more than 5 million Ohio River drinking water consumers. The money will be used to upgrade all ODS analytical and communication equipment to current technology levels. The ODS has been in operation since 1977 and has detected numerous chemicals and compounds that, left undetected, could pose a health risk to consumers.

** Ohio River Factoid **

More commerce is moved on the Ohio River than through the Great Lakes, and equals that transported through the Panama Canal!

Ohio River Basin Congressional Caucus Formed

Congressman Steve Driehaus (D-OH) displays the Ohio River Champion Award presented to him by ORSANCO during the kickoff celebration of the Ohio River Basin Congressional Caucus held in Washington, DC in October. Congressman Driehaus is co-chairman of the Caucus.



ORSANCO Commissioners Ron Potesta (left) and David Flannery (right) present West Virginia Congresswoman Shelley Moore Caputo with the Ohio River Champion award during the kickoff celebration of the Ohio River Caucus formation. Congresswoman Caputo is the co-chairman of the Ohio River Basin Congressional Caucus.