



Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

P.O. Box 8459 • Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8459 • 717-787-8171 • Fax 717-705-4980

April 20, 2021

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), I am writing to urge you once again to pass legislation that will appropriate a funding source for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund (HSCF).¹

We last wrote two years ago when it became apparent that the HSCF would soon become insolvent because of the expiration of the Capital Stocks and Franchise Tax in 2015. While some trailing funds have trickled in, no action has yet to be taken on this issue and the HSCF is on track to lose all funding. It is of the utmost importance to act now to find a revenue stream for the HSCF to avoid cessation of cleanup activities and grant programs and to allow enough lead time for money to be allocated before potential insolvency.

In addition to the core value of protecting public health and the environment, funding the HSCF positively impacts the Commonwealth's economy. The HSCF supports a complement of 233 jobs at DEP—194 of which are currently filled—and approximately \$24 million worth of DEP response contracts with private sector firms. After cleanups are complete, once blighted and hazardous properties are returned to economic viability.

As we said two years ago, the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program is truly a perfect example of the legislative and executive branches of our government working together as Constitutional trustees of the Commonwealth's public natural resources for the benefit of all citizens, including generations yet to come. I urge you to continue this cooperation by passing legislation that will fully fund this vital program.

CAC is happy to lend its support and help in any way we can to resolve this issue. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please contact our Executive Director, Keith J. Salador, by phone at 717-787-8171 or by email at ksalador@pa.gov.

Sincerely,

Jerome Shabazz
Chair

¹ The HSCF is a special fund established under the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) (35 P.S. § 6020.101 et seq.) that provides funding for DEP to implement the federal and state "superfund" programs, the voluntary cleanup program, the hazardous waste program, the household hazardous waste collection program, the small business advantage grant, and funding for DCED's brownfields grants.