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**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION**  
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

March 8, 2001

Honorable Samuel E. Hayes, Jr., Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
211 Agriculture Building  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Re: Regulation #2-115 (IRRC #2012)  
Department of Agriculture  
Sustainable Agriculture Programs

Dear Secretary Hayes:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved your regulation on March 8, 2001. Our Order is enclosed and is available on our website at [www.irrc.state.pa.us](http://www.irrc.state.pa.us).

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that met the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. McGinley, Jr.", written over a white background.

John R. McGinley, Jr.

Chairman

evp

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Raymond Bunt, Jr., Majority Chairman, House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee  
Honorable Peter J. Daley, II, Democratic Chairman, House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee  
Honorable Mike Waugh, Chairman, Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee  
Honorable Michael A. O'Pake, Minority Chairman, Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee  
Lyle B. Forer, Director, Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee  
David Bingaman, Chief Conservation and Agriculture Technology, Department of Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
APPROVAL ORDER**

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held March 8, 2001

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman  
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman, by Phone  
Arthur Coccodrilli  
Robert J. Harbison, III  
John F. Mizner

Regulation No. 2-115  
Department of Agriculture  
Sustainable Agriculture Programs

On March 5, 1999, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the Department of Agriculture (Department). This rulemaking adds a new Chapter 130c to Title 7 Pa. Code. The proposed regulation was published in the March 20, 1999 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on January 31, 2001.

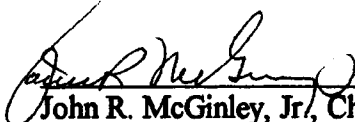
This regulation implements the Sustainable Agriculture Act, Act 129 of 1994. The regulation contains eligibility criteria and review procedures for loans or grants applications for sustainable agriculture projects. The purpose of these projects is to promote agricultural practices that are ecologically beneficial and will over the long term satisfy human needs and protect the environment. This is a voluntary program. The Department indicates that it will have little to no fiscal impact on the Commonwealth, local governments or private sector.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Department (3 P.S. §§ 2104, 2108, 2112 and 2115) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:**

This regulation is approved.



  
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John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman



