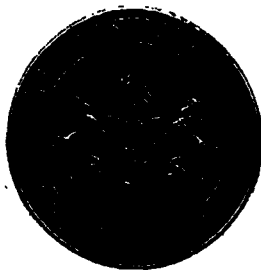


JOHN R. MCGINLEY, JR., ESQ., CHAIRMAN
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

March 8, 2001

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

Re: Regulation #2-133 (IRRC #2141)
Department of Agriculture
Preferential Assessment of Farmland and
Forest Land Under the Clean and Green Act

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.

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 dark ink, appearing to read "John R. McGinley, Jr.", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature. The signature is fluid and cursive.

John R. McGinley, Jr.

Chairman

cae

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
Raymond C. Pickering, Department of Agriculture
Doug Wolfgang, Department of Agriculture

**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.2-133
Department of Agriculture
Preferential Assessment of Farmland and
Forestland Under the Clean and Green Act

On August 21, 2000, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the Department of Agriculture (Department). This rulemaking adds Chapter 137b to 7 Pa. Code. The proposed regulation was published in the September 2, 2000 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on January 24, 2001. On February 8, 2001, the Department withdrew the final-form regulation. On February 15, 2001, the Department resubmitted the final-form regulation to the Commission.

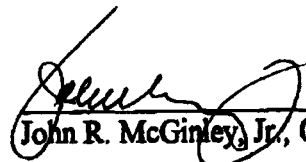
This final-form rulemaking establishes a new chapter that replaces existing Chapters 137 and 137a. This regulation is designed to implement Act 156 of 1998, which amended the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974, also known as the "Clean and Green Act."

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Department (72 P.S. § 5490.11) 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.




John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman