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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

June 10, 2010

2783

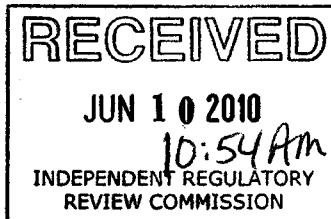
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The Honorable Arthur Coccodrilli  
Independent Regulatory Review  
Commission Chairman  
Harristown 2, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Re: Chapter 102, Erosion and Sedimentation Control. IRRR #2783. EQB 7-440.

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I am writing today to encourage the IRRR to approve EQB's recent revisions to its rules for Erosion and Sedimentation Controls, including its rule, particularly the section mandating 150 foot buffers for new development along Exceptional Value and High Quality streams.

The benefits of stream buffers have been well-documented. Not only is there a widespread consensus of their value in the scientific community, but Pennsylvania's conservation community has also shown a broad and deep support for these rules.

As Pennsylvania adds more and more people, the pressure on our natural water supply becomes ever greater. Development puts pressure on communities' ability to handle increasing volumes of storm water. It also puts more and more nutrients and other contaminants into the drinking water supply for the majority of people on public water in our state. As ratepayers, we all pay more and more to clean out pollution that could have been prevented from entering our water supply in the first place by leaving in place the naturally occurring forested buffers that exist alongside any stream in our Commonwealth.

Forested vegetation does an excellent job of slowing the velocity of storm water, preventing erosion and filtering out contaminants. It does not cost us anything to leave this helpful system in place. To restore a buffer in a place where the trees have been removed, one need only take no action and the buffer will return in time.

Perhaps most importantly, for people who choose to live near our waterways, buffers protect property values. They do so by diminishing the likelihood of property damaging flood events, enhancing the scenic beauty, ensuring a recreational value in the waterway and maintaining a cool stream temperature. Please approve these regulations and allow them to be promulgated by the DEP without delay.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL H. O'BRIEN  
Member 175<sup>th</sup> District