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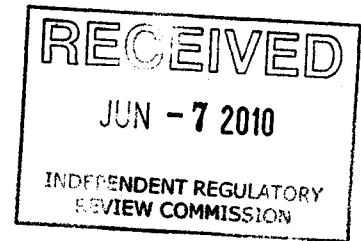


House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

May 26, 2010

COMMITTEES

GAMING OVERSIGHT, CHAIRMAN  
INSURANCE



2783

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

I am writing in support of the Environmental Quality Board's proposed revisions to the Chapter 102 regulations, most notably the 150 foot buffer requirement for new development along streams designated Exceptional Value (EV) and High Quality (HQ).

The protection and restoration of our watersheds is vastly improved by the addition of riparian buffers, a smart, low-cost solution using existing natural resources. The benefits derived from the use of buffers include improved water quality by removing sediment, fertilizers, and other potential contaminants, reduced soil erosion and flood-related damage, and increased property values in adjacent areas.

The efficacy of riparian forest buffers in reducing the quantities of nonpoint pollutants entering streams has been well documented by numerous studies and reports. A review of these studies by Stroud Water Research was submitted to the PA Department of Environmental Protection in March 2010 as they developed Chapter 102 revisions. Their review showed an average removal efficiency of more than 80% for sediment and 68% for nitrogen from surface and subsurface flow. The phosphorus removal rates vary depending on the type of buffer used, but still average removal efficiencies exceed 50%. Herbaceous buffers have a lesser average removal efficiency. There is, however, general agreement in a review of the studies that wider buffers are more effective for both sediment removal and the reduction of nonpoint pollutants.

Currently, over 192 municipalities in Pennsylvania have enacted ordinances requiring buffers on streams and rivers. One third of these communities have minimum requirements of 100 foot buffers for new developments; others require 300 foot buffers for EV and HQ streams. Development in these municipalities has not been negatively affected by adoption of the buffer requirement. More stringent buffer protection requirements along our specially designated streams and waterways in the Commonwealth will result in a higher level of protection for our public health and the environment.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the proposed changes to the Chapter 102 regulations to protect and preserve the EV and HQ streams, thus benefitting the citizens of our Commonwealth. Your review and consideration of my request is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Curt Schroder".  
Curt Schroder, Member  
15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District