

#2783
COMMITTEES

DAVID R. KESSLER, MEMBER
115A EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202130
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2130
(717) 787-2769
FAX: (717) 780-4788

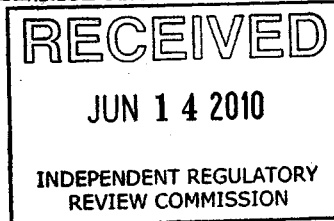
2 SCHOLL DRIVE
OLEY, PENNSYLVANIA 19547
(610) 987-0980
FAX: (610) 987-0798
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

53 WARWICK STREET
BOYERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 19512
(610) 369-3010
FAX: (610) 369-3011
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

BIRDSBORO BOROUGH BUILDING
202 EAST MAIN STREET
BIRDSBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 19508
THURSDAY 9 A.M. - NOON



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG



- AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
MAJORITY VICE CHAIRMAN
- FINANCE
- ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
- INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MAJORITY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
ON TOWNSHIPS
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
- ALZHEIMER'S CAUCUS
- ORGANIC FARMING CAUCUS
- SOUTHEAST CAUCUS
- SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS
- FLEETWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
110 WEST ARCH STREET
FLEETWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA 19522
WEDNESDAY 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Re: Chapter 102, Erosion and Sedimentation Control
IRRC Docket No. 2783
EQB 7-440

Dear Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

I write in support of the Environmental Quality Board's recent revisions to Chapter 102 regulations regarding erosion and sedimentation controls, particularly the section that would mandate 150 foot buffers for new development along Exceptional Value and High Quality streams.

The benefits of stream buffers have been well-documented, and there is widespread consensus of their value in the scientific community.

As development is spreading into our rural areas, it is placing increased pressures on our natural water supplies and our abilities to control increasing volumes of stormwater. Greater amounts of nutrients and other contaminants are introduced to our drinking water supply, saddling taxpayers with the costs of removing water pollution that could have been prevented in the first place had naturally occurring forested buffers been left in place alongside the streams of our Commonwealth.

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

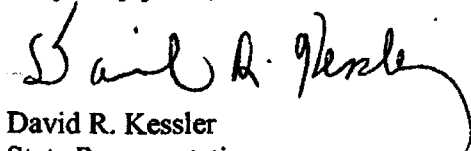
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Buffers have been shown to protect property values. They diminish the likelihood of property damaging flood events, and they enhance the scenic beauty of our watersheds. In addition, by maintaining cool stream temperatures which encourage trout and other cold water fish populations, buffers ensure recreational value in our waterways.

Please approve the proposed regulations when this matter comes before the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Kessler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

David R. Kessler
State Representative
130th Legislative District