

10TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
**BUCKS & MONTGOMERY COUNTIES**

✓  
THE CAPITOL  
SENATE BOX 203010  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3010  
(717) 787-7305  
TOLL FREE (866) 738-8600  
FAX (717) 783-5962

□ 22 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 220  
DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901  
(215) 489-5000  
TOLL FREE (800) 728-8600  
FAX (215) 489-5200

□ 56 EAST BRIDGE STREET, SUITE 1  
MORRISVILLE, PA 19067  
(215) 736-5960  
TOLL FREE (866) 739-8600  
FAX (215) 736-5964



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**CHARLES T. MCLILHINNEY, JR.**  
SENATOR

June 14, 2010

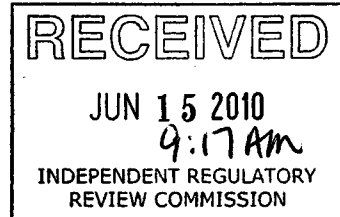
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cmclhinney@pasen.gov  
www.SenatorMcIlhinney.com



Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg PA 17120

**Re: Docket Number #2783**  
**EQB 7-440: Erosion and Sedimentation Control**

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the Pennsylvania Senate, I would like to encourage the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to approve the Environmental Quality Board's proposed revisions to the Chapter 102 regulations, including the section that would mandate 150 foot buffers for new development along Exceptional Value and High Quality streams.

We recognize that managing rainwater and stormwater is becoming more and more important for our state. Floods are getting stronger because storms are becoming more intense, while our increased impervious cover does nothing to slow or absorb any of that flow. When it comes to managing stormwater, the speed at which its moving is as important as the sheer volume.

Nature provides us with a ready solution for both: forested buffers. Requiring buffers on streams is not a new concept. Over 192 municipalities in a dozen counties already have ordinances in place that require buffers on their streams and rivers. One third of these communities already require buffers of at least 100 feet for new developments, and some require as much as 300 foot buffers for EV and HQ streams.

Our state has learned the value of forested buffers too late. Our neighbors in New Jersey and Maryland have more aggressive rules, even, than what we are considering here. The most developed parts of our state have started to pass rules about buffers alongside streams because they have realized the expense we incur when we tear out natural systems for rainwater

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management. Unfortunately, the place every community most needs buffers is not in their own boundaries, but in the next community upstream. We need them most in the places that aren't developed yet.

That's why Pennsylvania so badly needs a statewide rule like that described in IRRC Docket Number 2783. With a statewide rule, communities will share the benefits in cleaner drinking water, more vibrant aquatic communities and safer recreation areas. With the EQB's important action on May 17th, we will finally have significant buffer protection on our most pristine and most important streams. Incidentally, these are also the streams that are most attractive for anglers, eco-tourists and other sportsmen and women.

On June 17th, please approve these rules. The least expensive way to ensure safe, clean drinking water in our taps is to protect water quality in the headwaters of the streams that provide it to us. Protecting our EV and HQ streams will help accomplish that in a cost effective manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



CHARLES T. McILHINNEY, JR.  
State Senator  
10<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

CTM/mmr