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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Chairman, Education Committee
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Caucuses

PA Higher Education Assistance Agency, Member
Board of Directors

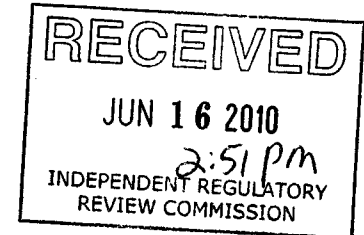
PA Historical and Museum Commission
Black History Advisory Committee, Member

PA Legislative Black Caucus, Member

2783

June 15, 2010

The Honorable Arthur Coccodrilli
Independent Regulatory Review
Commission Chairman
Harristown2, 14th Floor
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101



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

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I write today to encourage the IRRC 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JR", written over a horizontal line.

James R. Roebuck, Member
PA House of Representatives
188th Legislative District