

HARRY A. READSHAW, MEMBER

122 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202036
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2036
PHONE: (717) 783-0411
FAX: (717) 705-2007

1917 BROWNSVILLE ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15210
PHONE: (412) 881-4208
FAX: (412) 886-2077



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES:

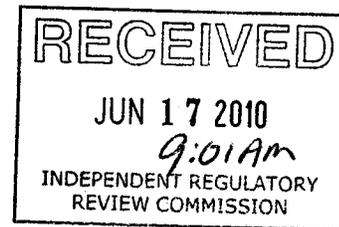
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, MAJORITY
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC UTILITIES
GAME AND FISHERIES
INSURANCE
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, MAJORITY VICE
CHAIRMAN

CAUCUS:

DEPUTY WHIP

2783

June 14, 2010



Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Kim Kaufman, Executive Director
333 Market Street 14th Floor
Harrisburg PA 17101

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

Dear Director Kaufman,

I write today to encourage the IRRR to approve EQB's recent revisions to its rules for mandating 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 stormwater. 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 stormwater, 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,

Harry Readshaw
Member
36th Legislative District