

TODD A. EACHUS
MAJORITY LEADER



THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG PA 17120-2116
PHONE: (717) 787-2229

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

NOV 20 2009

November 18, 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Environmental Quality Board
Department of Environmental Protection
16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

RE: Proposed Rulemaking 25 Pa Code Ch. 102

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board:

I am writing in support of the PA Campaign for Clean Water's proposal to require a minimum of 100 foot forested buffers on each side of all streams in Pennsylvania.

Forested buffers of 100 foot and higher offer important benefits to Pennsylvania's waterways and to our communities:

- Forested buffers will reduce pollution of our streams and rivers, filtering pollutants like nitrogen and phosphorus from runoff and improving in-stream water quality;
- Forested buffers minimize erosion of stream banks, holding soil in place;
- Forested buffers improve habitat for fish, and also cool the streams they shade, combating the effects of global warming;
- Forested buffers minimize damage from flooding, reducing the volume of floodwaters;
- Forested buffers reduce the costs of stormwater management, helping saving communities money on stormwater infrastructure;
- Forested buffers help protect the sources of our drinking water, saving on treatment costs;
- Forested buffers enhance property values in our communities.

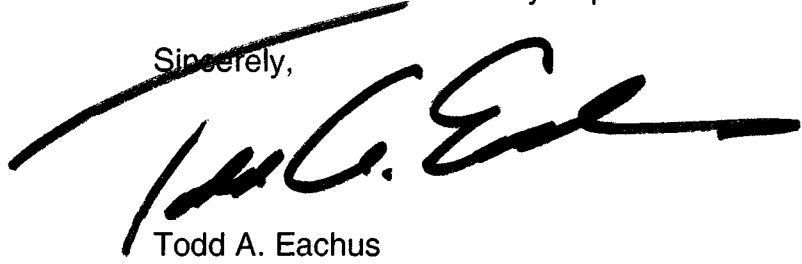
Pennsylvania already has several voluntary programs to promote buffers, which while helpful, have not been successful in making significant improvements in water quality and flood control. We need to require buffers for all new development in the state in order to protect our streams and our communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
NOV 19 3 41 PM '09
RECEIVED

Environmental Quality Board
Page 2
November 18, 2009

I encourage you to approve requirements for forested buffers of 100 feet on each side of all streams, 150 feet on headwater streams and 300 feet on Special Protection streams in their proposed revisions to the Chapter 102 regulations. Please make stream buffers a mandatory requirement on all streams in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd A. Eachus'. The signature is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Todd A. Eachus
Majority Leader

TAE/pg