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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

November 25, 2009

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NOV 30 2009

Environmental Quality Board  
P O Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Environmental Quality Board:

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

I am writing in regard to the proposed rulemaking on 25 PA. CODE CH. 102: Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management. Earlier this year, I wrote to Governor Rendell to express my support of the Buffers 100 proposal, which would require buffers on all streams in Pennsylvania. Please accept this letter as an opportunity to share my concerns with you during this public comment period.

It is my understanding and to my satisfaction, that the DEP has decided to require forested buffers on exceptional value (EV) streams. However, I am writing today to express my concern that that these forested buffers be required to be at least one hundred feet on both sides of every stream in our state, rather than one hundred fifty feet on small headwater streams and three hundred feet on EV and high quality streams. Buffers provide protection to our streams, reducing the risk of pollution, erosion and flooding, due to storm water runoff. By protecting our streams, we are in turn, protecting the stream's habitat. Additionally, the positive impact that healthy streams have upon our communities reduce storm water management costs and drinking water treatment costs and will have a long lasting effect upon our neighborhoods, resulting in increased property values. In fact, because of these positive effects, many municipalities in our Commonwealth already require at least 100 foot buffers. This demonstrates that implementing this requirement is not as burdensome economically as it may be thought.

In addition, I would like to share my concerns with eliminating the state technical review of storm water plans. I am confident an expedited permit review process, encourages reactive behavior, instead of preventative behavior. If a storm water plan is approved, and later it is found that the plan is not feasible, it is much more expensive and time consuming to deal with such an issue after the fact. I believe the opportunity for public comment and a state review will assure compliance with standards set forth in the Clean Water Act.

I thank you in advance for your attention and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Grucela, Member  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
137<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

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