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Environmental Quality Board
P. O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

RE: PROPOSED RULEMAKING on 25 PA. CODE CH. 102: Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management

Dear Board Members,

I am a resident of Union County and involved with the Linn Conservancy, a nature conservancy dedicated to preserving land, and the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance. I am also working with the Conservation District in developing wetlands to reduce farm runoff into the local streams. Both Buffalo Creek and Penns Creek have serious problems with sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen pollution from area farms. Data is available, as both stream associations have volunteers collecting data over past years.

Since this area has a serious problem of farm runoff, both in terms of sediment and phosphorus and nitrogen pollution, a mandated buffer of grasses and trees of at least 50-100 feet for all streams in this area would reduce those forms of pollution considerably. A buffer of 100 feet would double the filtering value and increase

Pennsylvania has over 83,000 miles of streams. This is an important resource and we need to protect it! This is why we need a mandatory stream buffers program, not a voluntary one. It is also why DEP should not eliminate technical review of stormwater plans. Without review by the state and without opportunities for public comment, stormwater management will get worse, not better. Pennsylvania's streams cannot afford more pollution and runoff, and we cannot afford increased flooding and drinking water treatment costs.

Buffers will reduce pollution of our streams, limit erosion of stream banks, improve habitat for fish and keep streams cooler. They will also increase property values for nearby properties, and cut stormwater management costs and drinking water treatment costs. And they will reduce damage from flooding, which costs at least \$6 billion a year. Many municipalities in Pennsylvania already require at least 100 foot buffers, demonstrating that environmental improvements can be achieved without economic burdens.

Sincerely,



11/3/09

Ben Hoskins
354 Sundance Ridge Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837