

2783

Chambers, Laura M.

From: McIlmoyle, Ryan [rmcilmoy@pahouse.net]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 12:42 PM
To: EP, RegComments
Cc: Anne Misak
Subject: REP. MIKE STURLA comment on Proposed Rulemaking on 25 PA Code Ch. 102



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1.pdf (56 KB)...

Ryan E. McIlmoyle
Research Analyst
House Majority Policy Committee
Mike Sturla, Chairman
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2009 NOV 25 PM 1:22

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 23, 2009

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

RE: Proposed Rulemaking on 25 PA. Code Ch 102

I am writing to you today concerning a vital issue to our environment in Pennsylvania. Mandatory stream buffers are an absolute requirement for the health of Pennsylvania's streams. Forested buffers are not only necessary at Exceptional Value streams, but environmental and economic health necessitates there to be buffers of at least 100 feet on **all streams**. There must also be extra efforts for headwater streams and Exceptional Value and High Quality streams.

Having experience within my district in Lancaster County and as member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, I understand fully the issue at hand, and know how very serious it is. Buffers will reduce pollution and erosion on our streams, help threatened wildlife, increase the value of nearby properties and cut stormwater management costs and drinking water treatment costs to municipalities.

I also feel that the "permit by rule" or PBR Program threatens our streams and rivers. Some of our most beautiful and healthy watersheds will be put at risk by this program and I urge you to reconsider this expedited permit process. I do support an increase to application fees that will help to cover current costs associated with reviewing permits and plans. The fees should be at levels that can sustain the program. I applaud DEP on their efforts to date, and understand the tight fiscal situation that the Department is in, but this cannot come at a cost of our most precious and healthy watersheds. An increase in application fees would address these challenges.

Please make minimum 100 foot forested stream buffers a mandatory requirement on all streams in this great Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Michael Sturla".

P. Michael Sturla, Chairman
PA House Majority Policy Committee