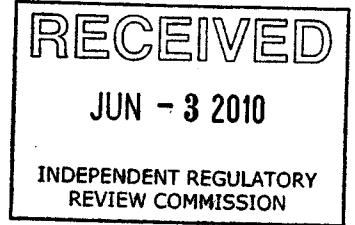


2806

Cooper, Kathy

From: Jason Smith [jes52@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:05 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Docket #2783 and Docket #2806, Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Wastewater



Commissioners Coccodrilli, Bedwick, Lutkewitte, Mizner, and Fineman:

RE: Docket Number #2783 [EQB 7-440: Erosion and Sedimentation Control]

RE: Docket Number #2806 [EQB 7-446: Wastewater]

I am an environmental consultant specializing in surface water and watershed management, as well as a Township Supervisor and Chairman of my Township's Environmental Advisory Council. I have been advocating for riparian buffer regulations for many years. I have seen such regulations work effectively to protect water quality, while respecting and providing for reasonable property rights, in other States. I am confident that the proposed riparian buffer of 150 feet for High Quality and Exceptional Value watercourses will best protect our resources and our economy, and from my experience in local government I am confident that at least two (2) out of three (3) voters are in favor of the preservation of open space, water quality, and natural area protection.

I strongly urge you to approve the Environmental Quality Board's proposed revisions to the Chapter 102 regulations, including the section that would mandate 150 foot buffers for new development along Exceptional Value and High Quality streams.

Requiring developers to maintain a buffer of trees and plants alongside our state's best streams is a smart, low-cost solution to protect these important natural resources and the communities and businesses that depend on them. Because buffers take advantage of Pennsylvania's existing natural resources, they deliver significant economic, health and safety benefits with very low investment from taxpayers and businesses.

Buffers filter out pollutants in river water before it becomes drinking water, they reduce the risk of flood damage, increase property values and the tax base, maintain lower stream temperatures and better water quality needed by fish and save Pennsylvania money on stormwater management by using existing natural resources effectively.

With tourism and recreation serving as major drivers of Pennsylvania's economy, it is critical that we protect the resources these industries depend on: our rivers and streams, especially the EV and HQ streams that stand out as the most attractive for these visitors. In 2008, Pennsylvania's tourism industry provided \$18 billion in wages to more than 600,000 residents. Fishing activities alone generate \$4.7 billion per year in revenue for the state-supplying 43,000 jobs.

Pennsylvania is a water rich state. So rich, in fact, that we have taken our water for granted. This cannot continue. If we continue to tear out all the forest protecting streams and dump millions of gallons of water six-times saltier than the ocean into our waterways, we will become a state rich with water that isn't any good to anyone. Please approve these regulations on June 17th.

Sincerely,

Jason E. Smith

Jason Smith
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Nazareth, PA 18064