

2806

SAMUEL H. SMITH
REPUBLICAN LEADER
ROOM 423 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 202066
HARRISBURG PA 17120-2066
PHONE: (717) 787-3845
FAX: (717) 787-6564
www.samsmithpahouse.com



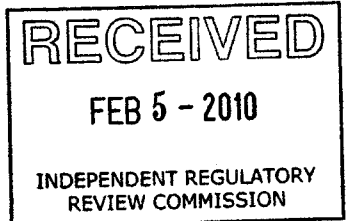
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

DISTRICT OFFICES

109 INDIANA STREET, SUITE 3
PUNXSUTAWNEY PA 15767
PHONE: (814) 938-4225
125-A MAIN STREET
BROOKVILLE PA 15825
PHONE: (814) 849-8008

February 3, 2010

Mr. John Hanger
Chairperson
Environmental Quality Board
16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105



Dear Chairperson Hanger:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rulemaking for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Wastewater Treatment Requirements (25 PA Code, Chapter 95), which impose strict, and in my view, unrealistic treatment requirements for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) within Pennsylvania waterways.

While I acknowledge that Pennsylvanians deserve clean water, in proposing this rulemaking, DEP has failed to provide any scientific justification for imposing such limits nor has it shown, by monitoring or sampling data, that our water resources are at any sustainable risk from TDS concentrations. In the absence of scientific justification, it is my belief that the current water quality criteria is more than sufficient for protection of waters of the Commonwealth.

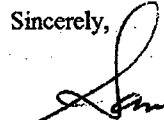
Without proven and compelling evidence for this regulation, it would be unfortunate for this rulemaking to be approved given the debilitating effects it would have on individuals living in my district who are either directly or indirectly employed by the coal industry.

While clean energy has great future promise in electrical generation, it my understanding that we are still years away from being able to satisfy our electrical demands via these programs. Therefore, our responsibility to provide affordable and reliable electricity depends on using our vast wealth of coal to create electricity. While alternative energy systems may have their place in our electric generation portfolio, these technologies will not completely replace our need for traditional forms of electric generation.

It has been indicated to me that the costs to the bituminous coal mining industry if this proposed regulation is adopted could be significant. These costs include capital costs of over \$1.3 billion and annual operation and maintenance costs of over \$130 million.

Because of the burdens this proposed regulations would cause, I would like to request the EQB delay a decision on the proposed TDS rulemaking in order to conduct further scientific sampling and to identify a more practical solution. DEP's proposed TDS rulemaking is will have a potentially devastating economic impact to our local industries. In a time when many businesses are trying to stay afloat, creating such strict standards without scientific evidence to justify it is very unwise. I appreciate the chance to offer my input on this issue. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,


Sam Smith
Republican Leader

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

FEB - 5 2010

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION