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House of Representatives ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

January 27, 2010

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

**Re: Proposed Amendments to 25 Pa. Code Chapter 95, Establishing Standards
for New Sources of High-TDS Wastewaters**

Dear Sir or Madam:

We the undersigned members of the House of Representatives support the Environmental Quality Board's (the "EQB") proposal to amend 25 Pa. Code Chapter 95 to establish effluent standards for new and expanded sources of wastewaters containing high concentrations of total dissolved solids, or "TDS." We understand that the proposed amendments will generally require new and expanded sources of discharges high in TDS to treat their wastewater before discharging it into the waters of the Commonwealth, so that their wastewater effluents contain no more than 500 mg/L TDS, 250 mg/L chlorides, 250 mg/L sulfates, 10 mg/L barium, and 10 mg/L strontium, all as monthly averages.


We are concerned about discharges of high-TDS wastewater into the Commonwealth's rivers and streams because of the widely-reported episodes of river pollution that have occurred in each of the last two years as a result high of TDS levels in the Monongahela River and its tributary Dunkard Creek. These pollution events demonstrated that high TDS discharges threaten our drinking water and the billions of dollars of direct and indirect economic benefit that the clean water in the Commonwealth's rivers and streams provides to our families, farms, and industries. High TDS wastewater is generated by some manufacturing processes, abandoned and active mines, and, now, the gas drilling operations that are being conducted in the Marcellus Shale formation that underlies much of the Commonwealth.

We urge the EQB to approve the proposed effluent standards for new and expanded sources of high-TDS wastewater so that the Commonwealth can begin working to reduce the

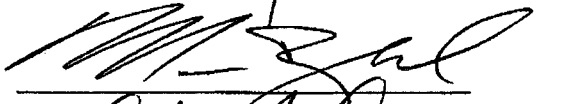
threat that high-TDS wastewaters pose to Pennsylvania's rivers and streams, and also insure that the cost of protecting our rivers, streams and drinking water supplies from contamination by TDS will be borne by those who generate the contaminants rather than by those who depend on clean water from our rivers and streams for recreation, agriculture, industrial uses, or drinking water. Further, we are hopeful that the proposed effluent standards will strengthen the demand for treatment solutions and technologies that will be met by expertise and industry from within the Commonwealth, which will help position Pennsylvania companies as leaders in supplying new water treatment technologies that will create jobs and economic benefits beyond those already expected to be provided by the extraction of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We urge you to enact the proposed revisions to 25 Pa. Code Chapter 95 to establish effluent standards for new sources of high-TDS wastewaters.

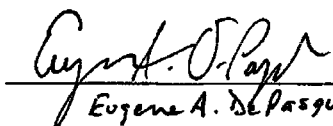
Very truly yours,

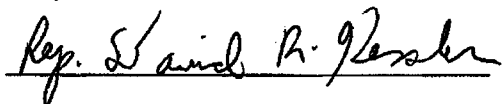

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cc: DEP Secretary, John Hanger