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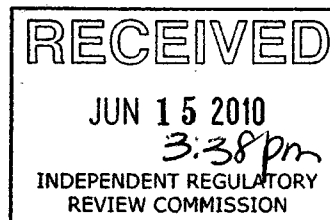
House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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June 12, 2010

The Honorable Arthur Coccodrilli  
Chairman, Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I write in support of the Environmental Quality Board's (EQB) proposal of the final-form regulations to amend 25 Pa. Code Chapter 95 - approved at the EQB's May 17, 2010 meeting. These proposed final-form regulations will generally require new and expanded sources of discharges high in total dissolved solids (TDS) to treat their wastewater before discharging it into Commonwealth waters, and thus will ensure that our waters will not exceed a threshold of 500 mg/l.

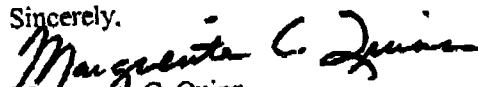
I also support the EQB's recommended amendments. The EQB received more than 4,200 comments on the proposed regulations, 90% of which supported the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) effort to protect the quality of waters in our Commonwealth. I believe that the sector-based and watershed-based approaches to address TDS are both protective of the environment and supportive of continued economic growth for existing and future Commonwealth industries.

I remain concerned about discharges of high-TDS wastewater into our rivers and streams due to widely-reported incidents of river pollution that have occurred as a result of high TDS levels in the Monongahela River and its tributary Dunkard Creek. These pollution events have 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 this Commonwealth provides to our families, farms, and industries.

I urge IRRC to approve the final-form regulations that propose standards for new and expanded sources of high-TDS wastewater so the Commonwealth can continue working to reduce the threat that high-TDS wastewaters pose to our rivers and streams. Approval of these regulations will also ensure 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 those who depend on clean water from our rivers and streams for recreation, agriculture, industrial uses, and/or drinking water. It is my hope 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 treatment technologies that will create jobs and economic benefits beyond those already expected to be provided by the extraction of natural gas from Marcellus Shale.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. I urge you to approve the regulations amending 25 Pa. Code Chapter 95 to establish very necessary effluent standards for new and expanded sources of high-TDS wastewaters.

Sincerely,

  
Marguerite C. Quinn  
State Representative  
143rd District