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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

- ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY COMMITTEE, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN
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- PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BOARD
- JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
- WILD RESOURCE CONSERVATION BOARD
- RULES COMMITTEE

July 14, 2009

Dear Secretary Hanger:

We have been following the Department's proposal to alter the Chapter 95 regulations⁷ as it relates to Total Dissolved Solids. (TDS) While we understand that the Department wants to prevent situations from occurring in the future similar to the one that happened last year in the Monongahela, we are concerned about the breadth and scope of this particular proposal.

The number and variety of industries that would be impacted by the TDS proposals is quite large. The impact to each industry and the potential cost to each industry to comply, if compliance is even achievable given the state of the technology, would be significant.

We understand that a suggestion has been advanced to Deputy Secretary Hines that a stakeholder or task force approach be undertaken. We believe that such a process would yield to a better understanding of the issue, the potential impacts and solutions that are feasible, efficient, and protective of the environment. We urge you to support a stakeholder/task force approach that could be implemented through the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Representative Camille George
Democratic Chairman
House Environmental Resources
and Energy Committee

Rep. Representative Scott Hutchinson
Republican Chairman
House Environmental Resources
and Energy Committee

Senator Mary Jo White
Republican Chairperson
Senate Environmental Resources
and Energy Committee

Senator Raphael Musto
Democratic Chairman
Senate Environmental Resources
and Energy Committee

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