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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 6, 2010

Arthur Coccodrilli
Chairman
Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market St, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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IRRC
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Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

I am writing to request your support, and the support of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC), of a proposal that would re-designate French Creek and Beaver Run from "high-quality" status to "exceptional value." This reclassification will help protect this sensitive waterway and preserve its valuable ecological and recreational significance to the people of Pennsylvania.

Over the course of the last six years, the Department of Environmental Protection has done an exhaustive analysis of the conditions in French Creek and Beaver Run, and has come to the conclusion that Beaver Run and the main stem of French Creek from the confluence of Beaver Run downstream to the Kennedy Covered Bridge should receive the designation of "exceptional value."

Clean water is vital to the health and well-being of all Pennsylvanians. French Creek and Beaver Run are held in high regard by not only the people who are fortunate enough to reside within these watersheds but also by residents who live throughout the region.

Many of the riparian property owners have played an active role in safeguarding and improving the water quality of these systems by implementing best management practices on their own properties.

In addition, the municipalities within the recommended upgrade area have implemented, and continue to implement, recommendations offered by the IRRC, and go even further by considering more protective measures for their water resources.

The accelerated decline in the water quality of the watersheds in Pennsylvania has greatly aided in the decline of wetlands and sedimentation, and has increased stream pollution across this region. However, through the adoption of this proposal, we have an opportunity to preserve a portion of a high-quality waterway, enhancing the quality of life for our residents and offering a pristine destination for those who enjoy outdoor recreation.

Re-designating this area as an "exceptional value" would preserve the culture and traditions that so many Pennsylvanians enjoy so that they are passed down to future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd A. Eachus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Todd A. Eachus
State Representative
116th Legislative District