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Cooper, Kathy

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IRRC

From: Mark Schmerling [photodocmark@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2013 1:30 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (IRRC #2954) 2013 JUN 14 PM 2: 54

Dear Members,

As a Pennsylvania resident I am greatly concerned with the quality of our rivers and streams, and as a taxpayer I hope that our state regulators are working to make sure our water is protected. I urge the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) to reject the final-form Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards, due to the lack of any standard for levels of salt (chlorides) in our rivers. We need to make sure a chloride standard is included in our state water quality standards.

Everyone knows that "water is life." We need clean, and I mean CLEAN water for our drinking, cooking, washing; for outdoor recreation; for a healthy environment. We need clean water more than we need fossil fuels; more than we need urban sprawl housing developments; more than we need any kind of irresponsible industry.

Over forty years ago, as a college student, I was walking with a friend on his uncle's farm in southcentral Pennsylvania. At one point, my friend went to his knees, and drank from a spring on the property. I followed. I had never tasted anything so crisp and clean. THIS is what ALL of us deserve. When this is gone, we will realize its real value. BUT, it need not be gone. We need to protect every remaining drop of clean water as though our lives depend on it. Because, they really do.

Every school child in this state knows the difference between freshwater and saltwater. I do not understand how Pennsylvania can refuse to protect our freshwater rivers and streams from something as simple as salt. Companies dumping oil and gas wastewater containing millions of pounds of salt should have to treat their wastewater, just like everyone else. Please help us get proper protection for our rivers in place here in Pennsylvania.

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