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Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 11:02 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; gvitali@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; apankake@pasen.gov
Cc: ra-epmsdevelopment@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards; Class A Stream Redesignations



Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards; Class A Stream Redesignations.

RECEIVED
IRRC
29 MAR 29 AM 11:41

Commenter Information:

Sam Boden
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1 College Ave. Unit 5133
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 US

Comments entered:

Re: Water Quality Standards; Class A Stream Redesignations:

As a Pennsylvanian student of environmental studies, I am strongly supportive of the Class A stream redesignations and water quality standards proposed by the Environmental Quality Board. I commend the DEP's comprehensive handling of this issue, and I encourage the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees to recommend this proposed regulation in full.

"Protecting water quality provides economic value to present and future generations in the form of a clean water supply," according to the proposed legislation. This clean water supply can be used "for human consumption, wildlife, irrigation and industrial use; recreational opportunities such as fishing, water contact sports and boating; and aquatic life protection." As such, any legislation that can ensure the quality of Pennsylvania's waters is a vote of confidence for the future of the state. Healthy, vital waterways are the source of life for our economy—they provide clean drinking water, afford an economic advantage with tourism and wise recreational use, and encourage sustainable agricultural development.

Outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania generates \$21.5 billion in consumer spending, contributes \$1.6 billion in state and local tax revenue, and creates 219,000 jobs.* At least 53% of Pennsylvania residents engage in outdoor recreation each year, but such recreation is dependent on a healthy environment. Additionally, sterile and polluted streams are an enormous liability for the state.

If effective restrictions are not designated for High Quality streams, and polluters are allowed to contaminate the waters based on out-dated classifications, eventually the citizens of Pennsylvania will be left with non-potable and useless waterways. Additionally, the complex linkages of streams in tributaries and watersheds ensure that any polluted streams will diffuse harm over a wide area. Healthy streams contribute to healthy communities, a crucial component of a healthy state. Thus, it is the responsibility of the government to mandate pollution controls that will protect the vitality of Pennsylvania's waterways—for its citizens, its economy, and for the future.

*Outdoor Industry Association surveys, 2011 & 2012

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Patrick McDonnell

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