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Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 9:04 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; apankake@pasen.gov
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water General Update and Fees



Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water General Update and Fees.

Commenter Information:

Sharon Furlong
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IRRC

Comments entered:

Protection of water resources is vital. Protection of watersheds and aquifers and transport systems and reservoirs is vital. Movement away from contamination of water in our lives, especially from lead pipes and other man made causes, including agricultural runoff and non point source pollution is significantly important. And then there is the juggernaut of the natural gas industry and its dismal record concerning protection of all natural resources , especially water both on the surface of the planet and underneath. And then there is th removal of water from ecosystems that degrades or harms the environment and the land and people and creatures and plants all around it and beneath it.

We could go on for days about this issue.

DEP needs help. It needs inspectors. It needs to have its mandate to protect reinforced, not stripped away, defanged and chronically underfunded. It needs to be the government agency it was created to be and not a handmaiden to industry or politicians who hate it and wish to destroy it. Now you are asking for all of us to help by raising fees. I guess there is no choice, but really, isn't this what I pay taxes for? Aren't those taxes for protection of our lives and the Natural world that is Pennsylvania? I guess these fees have to happen because underfunding isn't going to stop, but let us not be fooled: this is a slap in the faces of all of us, this is a joke in all of us.....raise fees while the folks who hate the DEP and its mission defund it. A double whammy if I ever saw it.

So raise the fees. But make it part of this law that those fees are 100% guaranteed to be funneled into the DEP and its work, and not allowed to get siphoned off into the General Fund to

be used to take care of budget shortfalls or raises for legislatures who refuse to help the people who elected them.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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