



April 12, 2021

Via email

Internal Regulatory Review Committee
irrc@irrc.state.pa.us



**Re: Clean Air Council's Comments on Regulation
#7-548: Water Quality Standards; Class A
Stream Redesignations**

To Whom It May Concern:

Clean Air Council (the Council) submits these comments to urge the Internal Regulatory Review Committee's (IRRC) to adopt the proposed Regulation #7-548: Water Quality Standards; Class A Stream Redesignations and redesignate these 41 streams to High Quality (HQ) designated uses based on their classifications as Class A Wild Trout Streams.

The Council is a non-profit environmental and public health organization serving Pennsylvania with offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. For over 50 years, the Council has worked to protect and defend everyone's right to a healthy environment.

During the previous comment period for this proposed regulation in 2019, 774 individuals and organizations commented in favor of redesignating these streams to High Quality designated uses, while only 2 commenters opposed the redesignation. In this outpouring of support, residents from across Pennsylvania shared how the enhanced protections afforded by these stream redesignations would provide a wealth of environmental, social and economic benefits. These redesignations will help ensure access to safe and healthy recreation areas, protect water supplies for downstream users, and support the overall health of these streams and their aquatic habitats for future generations.

In addition, by granting these streams HQ designations, the IRRC would help clear the backlog of Class A Wild Trout Waters that deserve High Quality designations and allow additional streams eligible for special protections to advance through the regulatory process. The Council urges the IRRC to act in the interest of the public and swiftly adopt this regulation to allow these 41 streams the elevated level of protection they deserve.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph Otis Minott

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