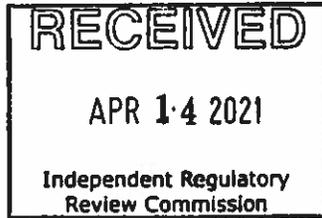


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EMBARGOED MATERIAL



April 14, 2021

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor,
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Final Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards – Class A Stream Redesignations (#7-548)

Commissioners,

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) is a national conservation organization with a mission to ensure all Americans have access to quality places to hunt and fish. We partner with 60 hunting, fishing, conservation, and outdoor recreation organizations to unite and amplify the voices of America's more than 40 million sportsmen and women whose activities help sustain the \$788 billion outdoor recreation economy. We have thousands of members in Pennsylvania, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the 42 Class A wild trout streams included in the proposed redesignation package.

This rulemaking will provide critical protections to 222 miles of Pennsylvania's most productive wild trout fisheries. Streams like these provide quality places for anglers to fish and provide important drinking water sources for communities across the commonwealth. We encourage the commission to move forward and approve this final rulemaking.

Protecting water resources is important to Pennsylvania hunters and anglers. A 2018 poll conducted by TRCP found that 92% of sportsmen and women support strengthening or maintaining current clean water standards. The poll also found that 78% of sportsmen agree that designations help protect drinking water for millions of Pennsylvanians.

In 2018, TRCP also completed an economic analysis of Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation economy and found that outdoor recreation in the state, including hunting and fishing, generated \$26.9 billion in 2016. Additionally, the economic analysis found that hunting and fishing contributed \$33.5 million to fish and wildlife conservation and restoration efforts through excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment that year. In 2020 the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat commission saw an 18% increase in anglers purchasing licenses, and fishing license sales are on track to continue that growth this year. Protecting Class A wild trout streams is critical to maintaining high quality hunting and fishing opportunities, which will help continue to fuel Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation economy.

Thank you for considering the 42 Class A wild trout streams included in this package, and we urge you to support the designation of these streams. We applaud the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection for working together to identify and protect these deserving waters. Properly designating streams with the protections they qualify for will help to maintain the integrity of these valuable resources now and for generations to come.

Signed,

Derek Eberly

Pennsylvania Field Representative
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership