

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Patrick McDonnell
Secretary DEP
Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

3224



Subject: Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards - Class A Stream Redesignations (#7-548)

Dear Secretary DEP McDonnell:

I feel we need to protect these clean and the wild fish and other organisms that live there, also for our own use, clean water is very important for all of us, and we all live downstream.

I am also an avid fisherman and enjoy see our beautiful native brook trout.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Kevin Hess

I strongly support the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board proposal (Pennsylvania Bulletin, March 23, 2019) to redesignate 41 Class A wild trout streams to High Quality-Cold Water Fishes (HQ-CWF).

The benefits of these upgrades are numerous.

Protecting the water quality of these streams with High Quality designations will help ensure that our best wild trout populations continue to thrive. This supports an outdoor recreation economy worth \$29 billion to the state; Pennsylvania boasts 16,000 miles of wild trout water and more than 1.3 million anglers.

At the same time, HQ designations protect water supplies for downstream users, including farmers and industry. More than 175,000 citizens draw drinking water from these streams. We all know that protecting water quality at the source is far cheaper than treating it downstream.

I applaud Pennsylvania for protecting these 41 waters, and urge the DEP to move quickly to advance additional packages of Class A streams that are still awaiting upgrade to HQ status.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hess
179 Pole Bridge Rd
Benton, PA 17814