

Thursday, April 25, 2019

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

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

Dear Secretary DEP McDonnell:

The best of community government cooperation went into reclaiming water. I have enjoyed many hours on some of these streams.

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,

Richie Hawkins  
852 Queen St  
Pottstown, PA 19464