

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

3226



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:

For over 50 years, I have enjoyed fishing for trout in Pennsylvania. Born in the center of the state, and now living in the eastern portion, I have had the pleasure of fishing in many wild trout and Class A streams. Such streams are the best nature can give us and I believe we should recognize and protect them.

As such, 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,

Todd Burns
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Pen Argyl, PA 18072