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PennFuture

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May 6, 2019

Via electronic mail (RegComments@pa.gov)

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105- 8477

**Re: Support for proposed rulemaking to update the designated uses so that the surface waters of the Commonwealth are afforded the appropriate level of protection.
49 Pa. Bull. 1367 (March 23, 2019)**

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

I submit these comments on behalf of Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) to support the Environmental Quality Board's proposed rulemaking to provide 46 streams High Quality (HQ) designations based upon their classifications as Class A wild trout streams. 49 Pa. Bull. 1367 (March 23, 2019). Pennsylvania's water resources are essential to the Commonwealth's health and economic well-being, and they should be given the strongest level of protection permitted.

PennFuture is a statewide environmental public interest organization with offices in four Pennsylvania regions, and serves as the Pennsylvania affiliate for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), one of the nation's oldest and largest wildlife conservation organizations. PennFuture's activities include advocating for and advancing legislative action on a state and federal level; providing education for the public; and assisting citizens in public advocacy. PennFuture and our members are concerned with the protection of Pennsylvania's aquatic and wildlife resources and the conservation of its surface waters for future generations.

PennFuture strongly supports the addition of the stream segments listed in the March 23, 2019 Pennsylvania Bulletin announcement to the list of "High Quality" waters in Pennsylvania. These streams qualify for High Quality designations based upon their classifications as Class A wild trout streams. A surface water that has been classified a Class A wild trout stream by the Fish and Boat Commission, based on species-specific biomass standards qualifies for High Quality designation. 25 Pa. Code 93.4b(a)(ii). Designating these stream segments High Quality will help provide them with an additional layer of protection to help ensure that they are not degraded. We ask that you finalize this rulemaking to provide these special waters with the protection they so richly deserve.

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Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for all of the work that you do to ensure Pennsylvanians' constitutionally protected right to "pure water."

Sincerely,



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