

PENNSYLVANIA CAMPAIGN FOR CLEAN WATER

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May 7, 2019

Secretary Patrick McDonnell
Department of Environmental Protection
Secretary's Office
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Submitted via: RegComments@pa.gov



RE: IRRC – Regulation #7-548, Support for Class A Bundle Listing 42 Streams to High Quality – PA Bulletin March 23, 2019

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water's Exceptional Value Workgroup (CCWEV), we are writing to express our support of the 42 streams in the Commonwealth proposed to receive High Quality status as part of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Class A package. The Class A package was noticed in the March 23, 2019 Pennsylvania Bulletin. We urge adoption of these designations now and have in past public comments provided support for these Class A listings and packages that are underway.

These upgrades are an essential component to protecting the public trust and the health of our communities in the Commonwealth. Furthermore, these HQ trout listings will also designate important wetlands associated with these trout streams as Exceptional Value, which should trigger increased protection of important wetland habitats that help clean and filter our water supplies and reduce flooding downstream.

This particular proposed package of 42 HQ streams the Department notes will benefit eleven public water suppliers, which serve over 175,000 residents. Clean drinking water is essential to the health of all Pennsylvanian's. The Department notes that this proposed rulemaking to HQ will afford a higher level of protection to the raw water source that serves these 175,000 residents. Recreation and outdoor enjoyment will increase for the communities where these HQ tributaries flow. Studies show increased property values in areas where clean streams and healthy forests, riparian buffers, and diverse open space habitats thrive. For all of these reasons and more, CCWEV is in full support of these HQ listings for 42 deserving streams. We look forward to other FBC packages being reviewed and accepted soon for HQ or EV status where softer qualifiers exist paired with trout waters.

The Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water (Campaign) is a coalition of over 180 environmental, conservation, sporting, and religious groups from all corners of the state that speaks in one voice in support

of federal and state policies to protect and restore Pennsylvania's water resources. The Exceptional Value workgroup focuses on protection of the Commonwealth's highest quality streams.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Faith Zerbe
CCW Exceptional Value Co-Chair
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Eric Harder
CCW Exceptional Value Co-Chair
Youghioghney Riverkeeper