

Form Letter A 1-5

#3227

**Form Letter: Farm Comment on WQM/NPDES Fee Increase**

**Proposed Rulemaking: WQM and NPDES Permit Application Fees and Annual Fees (#7-533)**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

Our farming operation is completely opposed to this increasing the scheduled fees and the initial fees. I am appalled that any lawmakers would consider this. Talk to any local farmer dealing in any sort of agricultural related field, and you will see the immense challenges we are all facing. If the Dep continues to regulate farmers to death, there will be no future caretakers of the amazing land that God has given us residents of the great state of Pennsylvania.

Please consider that in February of 2018, the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicted a decline in new farm income to its lowest level since 2002 (adjusted for inflation) with a median farm income projected at NEGATIVE \$1,316.

It is ludicrous to give DEP free rein to allow automatic fee increases every 2 years. Until farmers stop going out of business in droves, any new fees, or rising fees is insane. I am an animal operator and this would chip away at the foundation of our budget. That \$1500 dollar increase would take away from our family, our kids college savings, summer camp and would not help the farm to make additional plans for land preservation in the future.

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## Stephen Hoffman

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**From:** Edinger, Laura <ledinger@pa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 1:32 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; IRRC; Troutman, Nick  
**Cc:** Reiley, Robert A.; Shirley, Jessica; EP, RegComments  
**Subject:** Form Letter Notice - Proposed Rulemaking: WQM and NPDES Permit Application Fees and Annual Fees (#7-533)  
**Attachments:** Form Letter - 7-533 - Farm Comment on WQM\_NPDES Fee Increase.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached is a form letter DEP has received regarding Proposed Rulemaking: WQM and NPDES Permit Application Fees and Annual Fees (#7-533). We have labeled this letter "Farm Comment on WQM/NPDES Fee Increase."

To date, we have received 5 copies of this letter via email.

Thank you,  
Laura

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