

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 5:24 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Troutman, Nick; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; lversen, Sarah A.
Cc: c-jflanagan@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556)

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**Re: eComment System****The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556).**

Commenter Information:

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Comments entered:

To the Environmental Quality Board:

I am very concerned that the EQB has conducted an unbalanced stakeholder consultation regarding the proposed changes to the Chapter 105 regulations, failing to afford the public and public interest groups the same opportunities as private, special interests until this later stage in the process. I urge the EQB to give full consideration to the input provided by individuals and groups with direct, first-hand knowledge and connection to the waters that are potentially impacted by the regulatory changes.

As a long-standing member of a watershed organization that seeks to foster protection and restoration of water quality in our streams, I have witnessed how encroachments result in long-term physical disruption of the stream with resulting impacts on stream quality and biota, not just temporary impacts associated with construction. Under no circumstances should project proponents be able to receive permit waivers for encroachments and other activities in our high-quality and exceptional value streams and wetlands, no matter the size of the project. We know that some of our very small, headwater streams and wetlands serve as refugia for pollution-intolerant species, in some cases allowing the replenishment of downstream populations after disturbances. The waiver is an open invitation to pollute, when Chapter 105 is intended to

discourage avoidable impacts to our waters.

I also object to the proposal to allow large-scale pipeline projects to file one permit application crossing multiple counties, as opposed to being required to file applications in each impacted county. This proposed change would undercut the opportunity for potentially impacted communities and residents and interested stakeholders to provide input on potential risks and impacts, of which they may have intimate knowledge, as well as offer recommendations for project design changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Robin Mann

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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