



July 3, 2021

Karen Molchanow
Executive Director, State Board of Education
333 Market St.
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Director Molchanow;

I learned with dismay of the Board of Education's proposal to eliminate standards for Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture Education in K-12 education. As a Pennsylvania taxpayer, happy to contribute to public education in my home state, I view this proposal as untimely and unwise.

Today's students will face in their lifetimes the ramifications of countless past and current poorly informed policy decisions regarding the environment upon which their health and economic well-being will depend. They will NEED a grounding in Environment and Ecology if they are to have any hope of correcting the missteps and negligence of their predecessors.

Right now, an ecologically-literate person can perceive on the Pennsylvania landscape the subtle, but profound, negative changes wrought on our environment by changing climate, invasive species, wildlife disease, polluted streams, poorly managed farmland, and unplanned sprawl.

How will a person of the future, educated in Pennsylvania's public schools, even notice the diminished diversity of birds, the decline of valued tree species, the reduced abundance of pollinator insects, if they have never been exposed to, and nurtured in, a basic understanding of our state's natural history? All those indicators, by the way, hint at a diminished quality of life for future Pennsylvanians if not corrected to whatever extent remains possible.

Throughout Pennsylvania's history, characterized by a reckless exploitation of natural wealth (with exceptions, thankfully, notably in our system of conserved public lands), it seems likely that public education about environment and ecology may have even been suppressed to ensure there were few objectors to environmental carnage. We cannot afford that omission now, and tomorrow's citizens will not be able to afford their own environmental ignorance.

Please, rescind the proposal to eliminate Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture Education standards. Bolster and strengthen those standards instead. Such strengthening is the greatest service Pennsylvania public education can provide to today's, and tomorrow's, student.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,
Ben Moyer
126 Krepps Road
Farmington, PA 15437