

From: [Laurie Maglietta](#)
To: [ED, State Board of Ed](#)
Subject: [External] proposed education standards
Date: Monday, July 5, 2021 4:24:02 PM



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July 3, 2021

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

Dear Director Molchanow;

We learned with alarm of the Board of Education's proposal to eliminate standards for Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture Education in K-12 education. As a Pennsylvania watershed association whose mission is to educate, advocate, and protect the environment, we view this proposal as ill-advised.

Today's students -- tomorrow's voters, will face the consequences of poorly informed policy decisions regarding the environment upon which their health and economic well-being will depend. They will NEED an understanding of Environment and Ecology if they are to have any hope of correcting the errors of ignorance and negligence made by their predecessors.

Right now, an ecologically literate person can observe 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.

All of those indicators hint at a diminished quality of life for future Pennsylvanians if not corrected to whatever extent remains possible. We cannot afford this ignorance now, and tomorrow's citizens will not be able to afford the economic impact of reduced ecosystem services that a healthy environment affords us and the nation's economy! Understanding these free ecosystem services makes for better informed citizens who will be voting on legislation that will improve our quality of living.

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, students.

Sincerely,
Buffalo Creek Watershed Association
James Powell, President