

**Madison Brame**

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Osenbach, Matt; Glendon King; Franzese, Evan B.; Eyster, Emily; IRRC
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577)

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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

Testimony name: Public Hearing - Triennial Review #7-577
Testimony date: 11/14/2023 12:00:00 AM
Testimony location: Virtual

Re: eComment System**The Environmental Quality Board has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577).**

Commenter Information:

Peter Furcht
(pfurcht@comcast.net)
920 Clinton Street Unit 2R
Philadelphia, PA 19107 US

Comments entered:

Please see attached testimony given at the November 14, 2023 public hearing.

These links provide access to the attachments provided as part of this comment.

Comments Attachment: [7-577 Triennial Testimony Furcht.pdf](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Ezra Thrush

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Testimony for Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards Regulation Peter Furcht

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Testifying on behalf of myself.

My name is Peter Furcht. I am a resident of Philadelphia representing myself but I am confident I represent thousands of other Philadelphia residents. With all due respect to the industrial complex that lines the Delaware River with all the jobs and economic benefit they provide, I strongly request that the DEP remove the pollution loopholes which allows for the stretch of the Delaware River that flows through Philly down through the City of Chester and beyond to be repugnant, to die, to be unusable for recreation.

Allow me to read Section 27 of the Pennsylvania State Constitution: "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

And if I may, the DEP's mission statement: "The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments and businesses to prevent (not to allow, to prevent) pollution and restore (not degrade, restore) our natural resources."

Interesting isn't it? Nowhere does it say that our natural resources are there for the benefit of industry in which they are free to dump their wastes.

Let me ask you members of the DEP, how many of you ever visit the Delaware River, go fishing in it, or go tubing, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding on it? When you do, do you go up north where is is much cleaner or do you go right here in the Philly area or maybe a little south of Philly where is is more rural? When your family comes to visit, do you ever offer them the opportunity to come down to the Delaware waterfront to enjoy the river, do you take them out boating? Are you proud of the river they see in these southern reaches? Do you tell them your regulations are largely responsible for the River's present fetid condition?

Several times weekly I run along the Delaware River from Penn's Landing up to Penn Treaty Park. Several times yearly I bike along the Delaware from Spruce St up to the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge, across the bridge, up the New Jersey side along the River in Riverton and on up to Amico Island Park. Sometimes I stay on the PA side and ride up to the Pennypack Creek and into Pennypack Park. I bike down to the Navy Yard and ride along Admiral Perry Way and the Riverfront Greenway. I visit Race St Pier, Cheery St. Pier, Penn's Landing, Spruce St. Harbor Park. I used to volunteer on the Gazela which is the 100', 120 year old sailing vessel tied up at Spruce St Harbor, not to be confused with the 360', square rigged Moshulu Restaurant which I also visit several times a year. I've toured the submarine Becuna and the old Cruiser Olympia. The Battleship New Jersey is on my list. I will often walk to the Penn's Landing area on a nice day just to look out over the river which brings me some level of peace. You know what? The Delaware is disgusting, at all these points. I always leave saddened by the condition of the river

and in one of those weird mind games, I always find myself thinking, "God, I hope I don't trip and fall in!"

It shouldn't be this way. It doesn't have to be this way. Tomorrow, it could be different. Tomorrow, it could be much better.

The City of Philadelphia, the state of PA, the Federal Government, and countless developers are already or soon will be spending hundreds of millions of dollars to convert the Delaware waterfront into living spaces with new housing developments, new parks, new bike paths, a new cap over I95, all to bring people to the River. Today, when they get there, they will see a foul, seemingly dead, garbage filled River that they can't use. Are you, DEP, ok with this? Is this accomplishing your mission? Is this in line with the state constitution?

You must remove the "polluter exemptions" for the Delaware River and give this stretch of the river "primary contact water quality standards". I want to be able to visit the area and not worry about tripping and falling in!

Thank you.