



Madison Brame

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 8:26 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:

Ellie Kerns
 (etkerns99@gmail.com)
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 West Chester, PA 19382 US

Comments entered:

Hello, good afternoon. I wanted to thank you all and the DEP for holding this hearing today and allowing me and my fellow citizens to testify.

My name is Ellie Kerns, I currently live in West Chester and I have lived in Southeastern PA my entire life. I went to Haverford College where I studied Environmental Science and I now work in Philadelphia with an environmental non-profit.

I'm here today to ask the DEP to remove the exemption that keeps the 27-mile stretch of the Delaware River that goes through Philly and the city of Chester from getting "primary contact" level protections.

I grew up along the Brandywine Creek which eventually flows into the Delaware River. I have spent a lot of time enjoying both of these bodies of water and their banks. My family and many others in the region have enjoyed the Delaware River for all kinds of recreational activities like boating and swimming, and the river is the drinking water source for 15 million people in the region.

The current polluter exemption allows more pollution that contains toxic substances, bacteria, and viruses to flow in Philadelphia's portion of the Delaware River. We should be able to boat, fish, swim, and enjoy

the Delaware without fear of increased risk of infections and illnesses. Just because this exemption is the way that things have been done, doesn't mean we have to continue allowing these increased levels of pollution. Philadelphians deserve to live along and drink from a cleaner river.

I want the DEP as part of your current Triennial Review process to amend it to include language to give "primary contact" water quality standards to this part of the river so that it can be cleaner for our communities and enjoyed by Philadelphians and all Pennsylvanians for years to come.

I want to thank you all again for holding this hearing and allowing me to testify today.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Ezra Thrush

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