

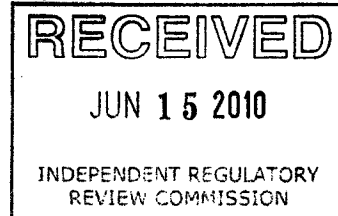
Cooper, Kathy

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**From:** jctmlj@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2010 12:22 AM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Cc:** keepermaya@delawariverkeeper.org; drn@delawariverkeeper.org  
**Subject:** Buffers On PA Streams - we need 'em

Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120



RE: Docket Number #2783

Dear IRRC,

Trees, shrubs and other native plants along our streams protects our communities -- it protects us from pollution, flood damages, and the drain on our local budgets that inappropriate development can cause.

Requiring developers to maintain a buffer of trees and plants alongside our state's best streams is a smart, low-cost solution to protect these important natural resources and the communities and businesses that depend on them. Because buffers take advantage of Pennsylvania's existing natural resources, they deliver big benefits at little or no cost to taxpayers and businesses.

Buffers benefit our state by:

- **Keeping drinking water safe;**
- **Reducing the risk of flood damage;**
- **Increasing property values;**
- **Protecting our streams;**
- **Saving Pennsylvania money** by reducing the cost for municipalities of stormwater management by using existing natural resources more effectively. This helps save tax dollars.

With tourism and recreation serving as major drivers of Pennsylvania's economy, and EV and HQ streams among the top destinations for anglers and eco-tourists, it is critical that we protect the resources these industries depend on.

Over 192 municipalities in a dozen counties in Pennsylvania already have ordinances in place that require buffers on their streams and rivers. But to be truly effective, buffers must be required on the full length of a stream. Just one municipality in the middle of a watershed without a buffer rule can undermine the protection afforded to that township and its downstream neighbors from pollution and flood damage. The best way to protect our most sensitive streams is with a statewide requirement.

Experience in Pennsylvania municipalities with existing buffer ordinances indicates that they have no negative effect on development activity in those communities.

Protecting the clean streams that fuel our economy and safeguard our health is a wise investment in the future of

our commonwealth. We strongly urge you to help ensure our streams and the communities they support are protected by approving the changes DEP has proposed to Chapter 102.

Sincerely,

cecilia boyer  
861 resica falls  
east stroudsburg, pa, 18302

Cc :Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper