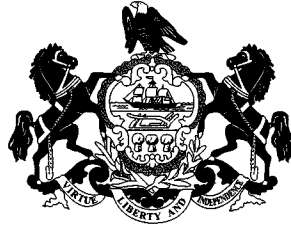


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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 14, 2012

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2927

David Sumner, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am writing regarding the Environmental Quality Board's recently finalized Dam Safety and Water Management Fees, Regulation #7 – 466, I want to take a moment to express my concerns regarding these fee increases.

As you know, this Finalized Regulation amends existing regulations to update and add new fees for activities performed by The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). While I understand that these fees have not been increased in some time, this proposal includes significant fee increases of more than \$5 million, with extremely difficult raises in several specific categories.

Accordingly, it is important to note that perhaps cost saving measures and program efficiencies like the use of electronic technologies and eliminating duplicated services could help alleviate some financial pressure on the DEP's dam safety and waterway management efforts. I have no doubt that the department has considered such measures but should make every effort to fully implement any potential program savings.

And, although these increases are difficult for all regulated parties, I am particularly concerned about their impact on our individuals and rural communities. Oftentimes, these fees present substantial hardships that become obstacles to needed projects and improvements. When stream enhancements are left aside, or conditions that require attention are left to deteriorate, we endanger adjoining property owners as well as nearby residents and communities and those downstream. Unfortunately, the alternative then becomes non-compliance, which will become more prevalent should these fees become a reality.

Therefore, please understand that I do not support these proposed regulatory fee increases and I urge you to disapprove the Final Form Regulation #7 – 466 upon the Commission's review.

Thank you for considering my input regarding this matter. Should you ever need anything regarding this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin T. Causer".

MARTIN T. CAUSER
State Representative
67th Legislative District

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