



**Stephen Hoffman**

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 2:33 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Troutman, Nick; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; Iversen, Sarah A.  
**Cc:** c-jflanagan@pa.gov  
**Subject:** Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556)

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**Re: eComment System**

**The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Dam Safety and Waterway Management (#7-556).**

Commenter Information:

Holly Wells  
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 2250 River Rd.  
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Comments entered:

As a resident of Northampton County with property on the Delaware River, I urge you to adopt strict rules. These regulations are an opportunity to help curb and avoid harm in the first place, to protect Pennsylvania's precious freshwater and finite resources. These water regulations can also help keep people and unnecessary, non-water-dependent projects like residential developments and shopping centers out of harm's way. This is especially important in a world of catastrophic climate change where flooding and rain events are becoming more and more common and extreme. Building in wetland areas is unwise economically.

As well, wetlands and streams are home to many species, not least of which is the bog turtle, a critically endangered species that depends on the wetlands of our area. Because they rarely come out to bask, it is often assumed that they don't reside in a given area; it takes careful observation to catch them basking at the right times of year. Although baby bog turtles are prey for many mammals and birds, those that survive can live to be fifty or more. The fragmentation of their habitats caused by development only makes it tougher for them to survive.

Keeping buildings and infrastructure out of these sensitive wetland and stream habitats, forested riparian buffers, floodways, and floodplains will help improve the water quality and protection of Pennsylvania's public trust standpoint and the people and property downstream, but also help

save taxpayer dollars down the road with less impact from flooding and expense and heartache that often comes with those repetitive losses. It will also help protect the habitats of endangered species. Thank you.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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