



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 8:25 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Troutman, Nick; gking; lversen, Sarah A.; Emily.Eyster; IRRC
Cc: c-jflanagan@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards - Dunbar Creek et al. Stream Redesignations (#7-557)

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Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards - Dunbar Creek et al. Stream Redesignations (#7-557).

Commenter Information:

Erin Johnson
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 325 Dartmouth Ave
 Swarthmore, PA 19081 US

Comments entered:

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

As a public health nurse, and as someone who appreciates and values the ecological systems that make life possible, I am writing to share my support for the stream upgrades, including Cranberry Creek, being proposed for the Dunbar et al. stream bundle out for public comment and proposed rulemaking now. I urge we move forward with the process so that these streams can receive the Exceptional Value regulatory designations they deserve. As a PA resident, I know that clean water and clean streams are essential for our PA economy, our health, our communities and our long term well being. More must be done to give more attention to languishing petitions and to streams in need of special protection and EV designations. By giving EV designation to these streams, we are protecting our own health and communities.

For example, according to an Outdoor Industry Association 2017 report, Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation generates 251,000 direct in-State jobs, \$8.6 billion in wages and salaries and \$1.9 billion in State and local tax revenue. The association reports that 56% of Commonwealth residents participate in outdoor recreation each year and many flock to these pristine Pennsylvania waters for rest, reflection and exercise. The findings of a 2014 Lehigh Valley Planning Commission report entitled "Lehigh Valley Return on Environment" demonstrates the

benefits when clean water and natural areas are protected. The report finds that current green infrastructure along streams in the Lehigh Valley alone "reduces tax dollars by avoiding more than \$110.3 million annually in expenditures for water supply (\$45.0 million), flood mitigation (\$50.6 million) and water quality (\$14.7 million)."

For these and many more reasons, it is clear that the Commonwealth and the taxpayers benefit when we protect clean rivers and streams before they are lost to pollution. Thank you for moving this stream bundle forward at your April Meeting and please continue to urge the DEP to process and upgrade other deserving streams that are in the long awaited queue for upgrades before it is too late. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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