



**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:

Sharon Richardson  
 (sharonrichardson22@gmail.com)  
 24 Hedgerow Lane  
 Malvern, PA 19355 US

Comments entered:

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

I am writing to share my support for the stream upgrades,, 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 ALL the streams can receive the Exceptional Value regulatory designations they deserve. As a PA resident, PA Master Gardener, PA Master Naturalist, mother and grandmother, I know that clean water and clean streams are a bonanza for our PA economy, our health, our communities and our long term well being and I believe 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,

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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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Jessica Shirley  
Director, Office of Policy  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063  
Office: 717-783-8727  
Fax: 717-783-8926  
ecomment@pa.gov