

**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-jflanaga@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:

Timothy Savisky
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Comments entered:

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

Related to Cranberry Creek, there are many reasons why a stream, or any part of wild nature, should be preserved. I personally lead students into streams to study the ecology. We always need a rather pristine stream as a comparison so that we can see how degraded water quality has become. For this reason alone I would be in favor of Exceptional Value status. Such streams are not common. They are rare. An advanced society, which I hope we are all part of, understands the value of rare, precious, things of value. Economic value is also important to us all.

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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