

October 6, 2014

The Honorable _____
Senate of Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 2030__
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Oppose HB 1565
Riparian Buffer Regulations Protect Water and Property

Dear Senator:

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association urges you to oppose HB 1565. Enactment of this legislation would cause irreversible harm to Pennsylvania's water quality and increase the destruction wrought by flooding.

The bill cannot be fixed because its central feature—the neutering of buffer requirements—is fundamentally wrong. The pressing need and scientific consensus that resulted in the establishment of riparian buffer protections for High Quality and Exceptional Value streams four years ago has not changed. **Riparian buffers are by far the most effective and least expensive approach to sustaining water quality and reducing the harm caused by erosion, sedimentation and flooding.**

An individual's exercise of his or her rights should not be unreasonably burdened by government regulation. However, **with rights come responsibilities**. Each of us has a responsibility to not degrade the waters and fisheries shared by all; we all have an obligation to not cause flooding for those downstream of us. The riparian buffer regulations targeted by HB 1565 feature carefully balanced provisions to protect water quality and prevent flooding while assuring that no-one pursuing development is unreasonably burdened.

Rather than eliminate buffer protections for HQ and EV streams, the General Assembly should be exploring sensible modifications to the Clean Streams Law that would encourage the protection of riparian buffers along Pennsylvania's other streams to guard against their further degradation.

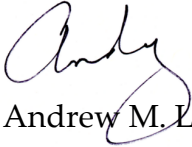
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Lebanon Valley Conservancy
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Pennsylvania Land Trust Association
October 6, 2014

On behalf of the 75 member organizations of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and the 120,000 Pennsylvanians they count as members, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Andrew M. Loza
Executive Director

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association seeks to protect Pennsylvania's special places—the farms, forests, parks and other green spaces that people love—the places that help to ensure healthy, prosperous and secure communities.

Manada Conservancy
Merrill Linn Land & Waterways
Conservancy
Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy
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Montgomery County Lands
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Mount Nittany Conservancy
Natural Lands Trust
The Nature Conservancy
North American Land Trust
North Branch Land Trust
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Conservancy
Open Land Conservancy of
Chester County
Pennsbury Land Trust
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Restoration Trust
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Pine Creek Valley Watershed
Association
Pocono Heritage Land Trust
The Radnor Conservancy
Rails to Trails Conservancy
Regional Trail Corporation
Schuylkill County Conservancy
Somerset County Conservancy
Susquehanna Greenways
Partnership
Tinicum Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
Tricounty Rails to Trails
The Wallace Trust
West Pikeland Land Trust
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Conservancy
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Association