



October 8, 2014

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

Re: Oppose HB 1565

The bill as modified goes beyond fixing a problem. It eliminates the riparian forest buffer requirement altogether.

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 scope of the bill goes far beyond the supposed problems with the implementation of the regulations. **The bill effectively eliminates the requirement of a riparian forest buffer**, essentially replacing it with a grass buffer standard. The science is crystal clear and without challenge: **grass buffers are grossly inferior to forested riparian buffers** in keeping our water clean and minimizing flooding.

The pressing need and science that resulted in the establishment of the regulations has not changed. **Riparian forest 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.**

Can flexibility be provided in meeting a riparian forest buffer requirement? Yes. Should ways be found to speed development approvals? Yes. Should the General Assembly eliminate from Pennsylvania's toolbox the most effective and inexpensive tool for delivering water quality and flood prevention? Absolutely not.

Pennsylvanians shouldn't leave degraded streams to our children or burden downstream communities with increased flooding. We shouldn't encumber future Pennsylvania taxpayers with higher costs for

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- London Britain Land Trust

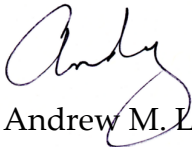


Pennsylvania Land Trust Association
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protecting water quality and preventing flooding. This is why House Bill 1565 should be opposed. As written, it will have a profoundly negative affect on the lives of this generation and future generations of Pennsylvanians.

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
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North Branch Land Trust
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Conservancy
Open Land Conservancy of
Chester County
Pennsbury Land Trust
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Park Society
Pennypack Ecological
Restoration Trust
Pine Creek Land Conservation
Trust
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
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