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**Voting Member Organizations**

Allegheny Land Trust  
Armstrong Trails  
Allegheny Valley Trails Association  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Armstrong County Conservancy  
Berks Nature  
Brandywine Conservancy  
The Buck Hill Conservation Foundation  
Central Pennsylvania Conservancy  
Centre County Farmland Trust  
Chesapeake Conservancy  
Chestnut Hill Conservancy  
ClearWater Conservancy  
The Conservation Fund, Pennsylvania Office  
Countyside Conservancy  
Delaware Highlands Conservancy  
Earth Conservancy  
Edward L. Rose Conservancy  
Evergreen Conservancy  
Farm and Natural Land Trust of York County  
Foundation for Sustainable Forests  
Fox Chapel Area Land Trust  
French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust  
French Creek Valley Conservancy  
Glade Run Lake Conservancy  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association  
Heritage Conservancy  
Hollow Oak Land Trust  
Independence Conservancy  
Lackawanna Valley Conservancy  
Lancaster Conservancy  
Lancaster Farmland Trust  
The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County  
Land Conservancy of Adams County  
Land Trust of Bucks County  
Lebanon Valley Conservancy  
London Britain Land Trust  
Manada Conservancy  
Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy  
Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy  
Mokoma Conservancy  
Montour Trail Council  
Natural Lands  
Neighborhood Gardens Trust  
North American Land Trust  
North Branch Land Trust  
Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy  
Open Land Conservancy of Chester County  
Pennsbury Land Trust  
Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society  
Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust  
Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust  
Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association  
Pocono Heritage Land Trust  
The Radnor Conservancy  
Regional Trail Corporation  
Schuylkill County Conservancy  
Schuylkill River Greenways  
Somerset County Conservancy  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land  
The Wallace Trust  
Tinicum Conservancy  
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
Westmoreland Conservancy  
Westmoreland Land Trust  
Wild Waterways Conservancy Inc.  
Wildlands Conservancy  
Willistown Conservation Trust  
Wissahickon Trails

May 20, 2021 [transmitted via email]

Re. Conservation Needs and Investments:  
A Good Fit for the American Rescue Plan

Dear Pennsylvania Senators, Representatives, and Governor Wolf:

I write on behalf of the 70 member organizations of WeConservePA (formerly the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association) and the more than one hundred thousand Pennsylvanians they count as members and supporters.

Pennsylvania's waterways need help. Although spending parameters may not be fully understood, the American Rescue Plan can clearly play a major role in providing this assistance:

- Billions of dollars in water investments are needed on a multitude of fronts to restore 19,000 miles of Pennsylvania waterways unsafe for drinking, swimming, and fishing.
- Municipalities face huge costs regarding MS4; farmers badly need help with designing and implementing conservation practices like forested stream buffers to keep soil and nutrients on the land instead of running into the water.
- Untreated AMD, desolate abandoned mined lands, and uncapped oil and gas wells harm our water and drag down local economies.
- Lack of investment in addressing stormwater management and flood prevention leave many Pennsylvanians highly vulnerable to loss of property and life.

Funding these needs out of the American Rescue Plan is a great fit:

- These are capital investments, not expenditures that have to be repeated (and supported out of the state general fund) after the federal money is gone.
- Tens of millions of dollars in green infrastructure projects are shovel ready now.
- Many more can be ready in short order if the money is made available.

The American Rescue Plan presents a tremendous opportunity to begin addressing the Commonwealth's enormous backlog of green infrastructure needs. In addition to the water-centric needs, American Rescue Plan dollars might also be appropriate for addressing:

- Our State Parks and Forests, which require nearly \$1 billion in restoration and repair work.



- Local parks and community open spaces that are seeing a surge (often doubling) in public usage and resulting wear-and-tear in this new era of increased interest in outdoor recreation.

American Rescue Plan dollars applied to green infrastructure would **support myriad small businesses and good-paying jobs** with them. Projects involve surveyors, appraisers, legal services, engineers, planners, drafters, environmental remediators, hydrologists, geologists, agricultural consultants, nurseries, architects, landscape architects, landscapers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, heavy equipment operators, painters, roofing contractors, fencing installers, paving contractors, material delivery, sign makers, archaeologists, and arborists. Supplies and equipment are needed from nurseries, lumber yards, quarries, building material suppliers, hardware stores, equipment manufacturers, and equipment rental businesses.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy".

Andrew M. Loza  
Executive Director

cc: member organizations