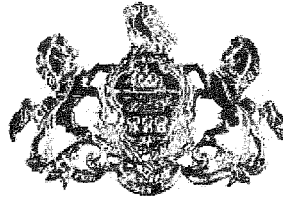


16TH DISTRICT
PATRICK M. BROWNE
MAJORITY WHIP

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Senate of Pennsylvania

March 2, 2014

The Honorable Secretary E. Christopher Abruzzo
Department of Environmental Protection
16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

Mr. John Arway
Executive Director
PA Fish and Boat Commission
1061 Elmerton Ave.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Secretary Abruzzo and Executive Director Arway:

Until recently, Lower Milford Township was represented by Senator Bob Mensch as part of the 24th District. As a result of redistricting, Lower Milford Township is now part of my district. It is my understanding that Senator Mensch has already sent a letter in support of upgrading the Upper Perkiomen Watershed to Exceptional Value status. Today, I join Senator Mensch in supporting that request.

The water that this watershed provides to local drinking water reservoirs should have the enhanced protections that the upgrade to Exceptional Value would provide. This watershed feeds into the Green Lane Reservoir, which is the primary source of drinking water for a large portion of Montgomery County. The fact that this watershed also is home to many native fish species also highlights the Exceptional Value of this watershed.

Co-petitioners for the Upper Perkiomen Watershed need at least 12 months to review and respond to the draft report that DEP published on September 18, 2013. I was shocked and dismayed that the report recommends that this important watershed not receive the special protection of Exceptional Value Status.

It is important to note that in 2007, the petition to upgrade the watershed was supported by a coalition of local environmental groups, over 120 townships, many businesses, landowners, and private citizens. Many of the townships in the Greater Upper Perkiomen region passed resolutions to support the upgrade. And today, the petition continues to have strong support from the varied communities that live within and beyond the watershed. Additionally, numerous improvements as well as conservation and restoration efforts have been conducted in the region.

It's critical that DEP thoroughly examine and consider all of the significant and positive activities that have taken place in this watershed before and since the petition. The Perkiomen Watershed is a gem for the entire region and deserves Exceptional Value designation. For example, the Upper Perkiomen Watershed:

DISTRICT OFFICES

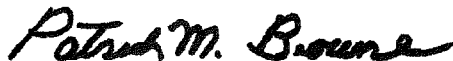
P.O. Box 16, Saylorsburg, PA 18353 • (570) 402-1499 • FAX (570) 402-0746
702 W. Hamilton Street, Suite 101, Allentown, PA 18101-2471 • (610) 821-8468 • FAX (610) 821-6798
8330 Schantz Road, Breinigsville, PA 18031 • (610) 366-2327 • FAX (610) 366-2329
5330-Nor-Bath Boulevard, Northampton, PA 18067 • (610) 502-1567 • FAX (610) 502-1570
1601 Union Boulevard, First Floor, Allentown, PA 18109 • (610) 821-6813 • FAX (610) 841-1137

- Provides good quality drinking water for local and regional communities and is the largest sub-watershed of the Schuylkill River and a large part of the nationally recognized Schuylkill Highlands;
- Provides unique natural areas for family and individual recreational activities - In fact, the Upper Perkiomen Valley supports the highest concentration of Natural Areas Inventory priority sites in all of Montgomery County;
- Provides critical habitat for game fish like trout, our majestic eagles and even otters and mink – parts of the Perkiomen are Class A trout or wild trout fisheries and have thriving native trout populations;
- Attracts sports-people and recreational visitors who bolster the area's tourism economy;
- Provides forested areas and healthy riparian buffer measures around creeks to reduce flooding, protect stream banks, produces oxygen and moderates temperatures – all helping to protect real estate property values for homeowners and businesses.

I urge you to reconsider the draft report and work with the co-petitioners to give the Upper Perkiomen Watershed the designation of Exceptional Value that it deserves and that the community wants.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Senator Pat Browne
16th Senate District
Majority Whip

**JUSTIN SIMMONS, MEMBER
131ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

PO Box 202131
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2131
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Village Center
21 N. Main Street, Unit 9
Coopersburg, PA 18036
Phone: (610) 282-3901
Fax: (610) 282-3955

www.RepSimmons.com

To:

Name: Monique

Business: Delaware Riverkeep Network

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: 215 369 1181



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Property Tax
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2nd Amendment

From:

The Office of PA State Representative
Justin J. Simmons
131st Legislative District

District Office Phone: (610) 282-3901

District Office Fax: (610) 282-3955

*Rep Simmons' Petition letter to have the Upper Peck
watershed rated as Exceptional Quality*

- Eric

**JUSTIN SIMMONS, MEMBER
131ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

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Michele Tate
Regulatory Coordinator, Policy Office

Dear Michele,

I have been contacted by many of my constituents who have urged me to contact you regarding the application to upgrade the Upper Perkiomen Watershed to Exceptional Value status. I am writing today to express my support of upgrading the Upper Perkiomen Watershed to Exceptional Value status. I believe that the water that this watershed provides to local drinking water reservoirs should have the enhanced protections that the upgrade to Exceptional Value would provide. As I am sure you are aware, this watershed feeds into the Green Lane Reservoir, which is the primary source of drinking water for a large portion of Montgomery County. The fact that this watershed also is home to many native fish species, something that has become increasingly uncommon over the past few decades, also highlights the Exceptional Value of this watershed.

I urge the Department of Environmental Protection to provide co-petitioners for the Upper Perkiomen Watershed at least 12 months to review and respond to the draft report that DEP published on September 18, 2013, that to my dismay, recommends that this important watershed not receive this special protection but instead remain at its current designated uses.

This upgrade petition submitted in 2007 was not only supported by a coalition of local environmental groups, but also over 120 townships, businesses, landowners, and private citizens who wrote in support of this regional upgrade. Many of the townships in the Upper Perkiomen region even passed resolutions to support the upgrade. And today the petition continues to have strong support from the varied communities that live within it and beyond.

**REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN SIMMONS
PENNSYLVANIA 131ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

In addition, since 2007, numerous improvements, conservation and restoration efforts have been conducted in the region. It's critical that DEP thoroughly examine and consider all of the significant and positive activities that have taken place in this watershed before and since the petition. The Perkiomen is a gem for the region and deserves Exceptional Value designation. For example, the Upper Perkiomen Watershed:

- Provides good quality drinking water for local and regional communities and is the largest sub-watershed of the Schuylkill River and a large part of the nationally recognized Schuylkill Highlands;
- Provides unique natural areas for family and individual recreational activities - In fact, the Upper Perkiomen Valley supports the highest concentration of Natural Areas Inventory priority sites in all of Montgomery County;
- Provides critical habitat for game fish like trout, our majestic eagles and even otters and mink – parts of the Perkiomen are even Class A trout or wild trout fisheries and have thriving native trout populations;
- Attracts sports-people and recreational visitors who bolster the area's tourist economy;
- And provides forested areas and healthy riparian buffer measures around creeks to reduce flooding, protect stream banks, produce oxygen and moderate temperatures – all helping to protect real estate property values for homeowners and businesses.

I urge you to reconsider the draft report and work with the co-petitioners to instead, give the Upper Perkiomen Watershed the designation of Exceptional Value that it deserves and that the community wants.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions for me please do not hesitate to call my office at 610-282-3901.

Sincerely,



Rep. Justin Simmons
Pennsylvania 131st Legislative District

24th District
BOB MENSCH

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The State Capitol
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February 21, 2014

Honorable E. Christopher Abruzzo, Secretary
PA Department of Environmental Protection
16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
PO Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

Re: Upper Perkiomen Watershed Exceptional Value Petition

Dear Secretary Abruzzo:

It is my pleasure to express my support of the Upper Perkiomen Watershed's continuous efforts to be upgraded to Exceptional Value status. The Upper Perkiomen Watershed's petition to be upgraded to Exceptional Value Status was submitted in 2007 and still awaits approval. The water that this watershed provides to local drinking water reservoirs should have the enhanced protections that the upgrade to Exceptional Value would provide. As I am sure you and the rest of the Environmental Quality Board understand, this watershed feeds into the Green Lane Reservoir, which is the primary source of drinking water for a large portion of Montgomery County. It is also home to many native fish species, something that has been increasingly uncommon over the past few decades, which also highlights the Exceptional Value of this watershed.

I strongly encourage the DEP to continue further analysis and investigation of the pending Upper Perkiomen petition to upgrade their watershed. My constituents and I deeply appreciate the time and attention that has been given to review this petition over the years. This particular petition has my full support and the support of over 120 co-petitioners. We are strongly and continuously committed to ensuring the protection and preservation of the Upper Perkiomen Basin.

Montgomery/Bucks County Office
404 Main Street, Suite A
Pennsburg, PA 18073
(215) 541-2388
FAX (215) 541-2387

Lansdale District Office
Lansdale Borough Hall
One Vine Street
Lansdale, PA 19446
(215) 368-3117
FAX (215) 541-2387

Lehigh County Office
1245 Chestnut Street, Unit #5
Emmaus, PA 18049
(610) 965-1466
FAX (610) 967-2586

Northampton County Office
1701 Washington Boulevard
Easton, PA 18042
(610) 250-5624
FAX (610) 250-5628

It is important to remember that when the upgrade petition was initially submitted, it was supported by a coalition of local environmental groups and more than 120 townships, businesses, landowners, and private citizens who wrote in support of the upgrade. Many municipalities even passed resolutions to express their support for the upgrade. In addition, the petition was supported by fishing organizations, farmers, and two county conservation districts that operate in the Upper Perkiomen Basin.

It is my understanding that the co-petitioners are concerned about the outcome of the petition. If the Upper Perkiomen Basin was elevated to Exceptional Value status, it would make a positive impact over a large regional area. Since first submitting the application in 2007, there have been numerous improvements protective measures, conservation and restoration efforts made in the area. I understand that the DEP has invested large amounts of time and funds investigating this petition. I kindly request and encourage the DEP to extend their study and investigation efforts and seriously consider granting an upgrade to the Upper Perkiomen Watershed.

Thank you for your deepest considerations on this matter. The Upper Perkiomen Watershed is a valuable environmental feature for my constituents the 24th District. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Mensch', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Senator Bob Mensch
24th Senatorial District

CC: Faith Zerbe, Delaware Valley River Keeper Network

Please see below from Dave Miko of PFBC.

Thanks,

Brian

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Miko, David** <dmiko@pa.gov>

Date: Wed, Mar 5, 2014 at 10:57 AM

Subject: RE: PA TU letter on Upper Perk

To: Brian Wagner <brian.wagner@avantormaterials.com>

Cc: "Arway, John" <jarway@pa.gov>, "Kaufmann, Michael (Fisheries Management)" <mkaufmann@pa.gov>, "Young, Leroy" <leyoung@pa.gov>

Brian,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. After speaking with the Area Fisheries Manager in SE PA (Mike Kaufmann) we have determined that the following work will be scheduled for the 2014 field season:

1. An electrofishing survey on an unnamed tributary to Hosensack Creek (this survey will be conducted in concert with some habitat improvement work).
2. An electrofishing survey on one station of Hosensack Creek. Additional stations could be electrofished depending on the results of the single station survey.
3. An investigation of the Koplín property to determine if the Brook Trout reported to be present in springs on the property (Hosensack Creek Review-Princeton Hydro 2013 report - attached) are in fact present.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Dave

David A. Miko, Chief
Division of Fisheries Management
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823
W: [717-705-7832](tel:717-705-7832) Or [814-359-5169](tel:814-359-5169)
dmiko@pa.gov



Mr. John Arway
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
1601 Elmerton Ave
Harrisburg, PA 17110
jarway@pa.gov

February 26, 2014

Dear Mr. Arway,

As you know, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has finalized its draft report for the Upper Perkiomen redesignation petition. Originally scheduled for the February 18th meeting of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB), the draft report may return to the agenda as soon as March 18th, the next scheduled meeting of the EQB. The lead co-petitioners, which include Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited (PVTU), a chapter of Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, as well as over 120 organizations and individuals, submitted the petition in 2007. Lead co-petitioners also included the Montgomery County Conservation District and the Lehigh County Conservation District.

The lead co-petitioners were made aware of DEP's draft report that recommended "no change" in designations in September 2013. The co-petitioners reviewed the DEP's antidegradation assessment report and then shared additional information and comments that we felt should be considered before making a recommendation on this large upgrade area to the EQB. Also at that time, Lower Milford Township engaged Princeton Hydro to provide a review of the DEP's report for portions of the upgrade area within the Township. We have attached these two sets of comments as we understand the packet provided to the EQB may have included only the DEP response document and neither Princeton Hydro's review nor the extensive comments prepared by the lead co-petitioners.

Among the points discussed in our comments, we included information about areas where native brook trout have been observed by the community, including by members of PVTU. We learned from regional Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission staff that the last fish surveys conducted by the Commission in the Upper Perkiomen were undertaken in 2000. Two other studies for the Hosensack Creek watershed were conducted even earlier, in 1995 and 1983. Those studies indicated portions of the Hosensack Creek were designated Class C Wild Trout while Indian Creek, a Hosensack tributary, was designated Class B Wild Trout from the headwaters to the mouth. Although these older studies did not yield a Class A biomass

which would be needed for High Quality designation, we are concerned that the angler observations of native brook trout, a more sensitive species, coupled with the number of habitat restoration and buffer projects that have been implemented since 1997 might reveal improvements over the previous biomass results in some sections of the proposed upgrade area.

At this time, we are reaching out on behalf of our co-petitioners to inquire if Commission biologists may be able to work with us to re-survey specific reaches of the Upper Perkiomen to determine if trout biomass has indeed improved since the previous studies. As you know, a Class A designation would make the Upper Perkiomen eligible for High Quality status and qualifiers raised in the petition could then be considered or applied to the HQ sections for possible EV listings. If the Commission is interested in working with us to undertake these studies in 2014, or even in 2015, perhaps this would be sufficient cause to encourage the DEP from making a recommendation to the EQB at this time.

Finally, if DEP does choose to place the Upper Perkiomen redesignation petition on the EQB agenda in the on March 18th or the coming months, we are hoping that as an EQB member you can support the position of the co-petitioners to delay action until further science can be gathered by the co-petitioners or other interested agencies.

We would welcome the opportunity to hear your thoughts on this timely matter. Thank you for your work and support for protection of the Upper Perkiomen watershed.

Sincerely,

Chaz Macdonald
President, Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited, #332

Brian Wagner
President, Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

cc. Mike Kauffman, PA Fish and Boat Commission
Gus Meyer, Montgomery County Conservation District
Andrew Meadows, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy
William McFadden, Lehigh County Conservation District