



February 17, 2014

Honorable E. Christopher Abruzzo
EQB Chairperson
Secretary of Environmental Protection
16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301
cabruzzo@state.pa.us
cabbuzzo@pa.gov

Re: Co-Petitioner Request Upper Perkiomen petition be removed from consideration at the Feb 18 EQB Agenda

Dear Mr. Abruzzo,

On behalf of more than 120 co-petitioners and the hundreds more who subsequently expressed support for the Upper Perkiomen upgrade petition, the lead co-petitioners thank you for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) work in this important region. As indicated in our prior letters dated November 18, 2013, though this petition has been under review since 2007, it is only recently that the petitioners have been able to review and respond to DEP data for this 2007 petition (October 2013). We raised significant concerns in our November 18th comments to DEP.

On February 11, the co-petitioners received email notice that our Nov 18th 2013 comments were reviewed by DEP and that in fact on February 18th, 2013, DEP would take their final Upper Perkiomen Report to the EQB with a recommendation that our petition be denied and no stream segments upgraded for the entire watershed area.

The co-petitioners would like to request that in your capacity as Chairman of the EQB, that this agenda item for the Upper Perkiomen be tabled from the EQB Feb 18th agenda at this time so that co-petitioners and EQB members have more time to review and respond to DEP's final report that co-petitioners learned of only on February 11th. Take note, for example, that Montgomery County Conservation District is unable to attend the EQB meeting to present due to the short notification provided to the petitioners on February 11, 2013. Bad weather is also predicted overnight and co-petitioners able to make it have over three hours to travel to the meeting.

If the agenda item is not tabled for Feb 18th, co-petitioners request that the EQB urge DEP to go back to

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the report and work with the co-petitioners to investigate and collect more recent data including water chemistry data under the HQ qualifer, that would be considered before making a final report about the Upper Perkiomen region. By delaying this DEP report a year so co-petitioners could better cooperate with DEP to collect more data would also in essence, not change the status quo, since DEP is simply recommending that all designations for the Upper Perkiomen remain the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Charles MacDonald
President
Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited, Chapter #332