

March 15, 2013

Mr. John Arway Executive Director Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission P.O. Box 67000 Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000 Submitted via: www.fishandboat.com/regcomments

Re: Wild Trout Waters and Class A Waters and Request for Delaware Basin ongoing and future fish population studies

Dear Mr. Arway:

Delaware Riverkeeper Network is writing to express our full support and inclusion of additional waters being protected and added to PAFBC's Class A and Wild Trout Waters lists as proposed in the PA Bulletin, dated February 16, 2013. We are particularly pleased to see Brushy Run and Panther Creek in the Schuylkill Watershed and Cuttalossa Creek in Bucks County be provided Wild Trout status as these three waterbodies are part of the Delaware River Basin and important waterways for the community recreating and enjoying those areas that deserve this designation. DRN is further encouraged and in support of the Fish and Boat Commission using a watershed approach to listing these waters - giving protections from headwaters to mouth for these important streams.

Delaware Riverkeeper Network is also writing to request additional data or stream lists for other Delaware Watershed tributaries that may be studied or considered in future PAFBC actions to the Class A or Wild Trout Waters programs and to reach out to see if we could help in any way to identify streams in the Delaware Basin that may be good candidates for either of these designations. This important work and research by PAFBC can be used to help strengthen a pending regional upgrade petition for the Delaware River Basin which encompasses all Pennsylvania tributaries located north of the Delaware Water Gap to the New York border. The petition that was submitted to PADEP in December 2011 and a map of the proposed upgrade area are located at the two links below:

http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/resources/Comments/12.9.11DelPetitionandCoverLetters.pdf (petition and cover letters) and

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK 925 Canal Street, Suite 3701 Bristol, PA 19007 Office: (215) 369-1188 fax: (215) 369-1181 drm@delawareriverkeeper.org www.delawareriverkeeper.org http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/resources/Comments/DRBC.Proposed%20Upgrade%20Map.Reavy.2.2 9.12.pdf (general overview map).

PAFBC's efforts to ensure high quality streams are designated and protected is critical to saving some of the highest quality streams of the Commonwealth and we appreciate all the work being done at a time when budgets are strapped and development pressures are intense. We look forward to hearing more how we can possibly help assist with additional designations being awarded to Delaware River tributaries. I can be reached at 215-369-1188 ext 110 at any time. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Faith Rybe

Faith Zerbe Monitoring Director Delaware Riverkeeper Network