

24th District
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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
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Lansdale District Office
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Lehigh County Office
1245 Chestnut Street, Unit #5
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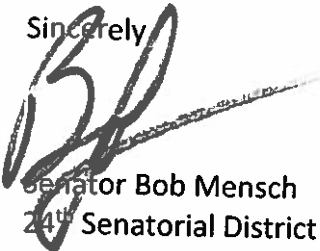
Northampton County Office
1701 Washington Boulevard
Easton, PA 18042
(610) 250-5624
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It is important to remember that when the upgrade petition was initially submitted, it was supported by a coalition of local environmental groups and more than 120 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



Senator Bob Mensch
24th Senatorial District

CC: Faith Zerbe, Delaware Valley River Keeper Network