



Thank Those that Are Protecting the Buffers That Protect Us All

Please use the letter below to craft a thank you letter to Pennsylvania Senators who are co-sponsoring the proposed Riparian Buffer Protection Act, Senate Bill 1465. If your Senator has not yet become a cosponsor, please urge them to add their name and vote for this important piece of legislation when it comes to the Senate floor.

Based on the most current science, this important piece of legislation supports and encourages protection of riparian buffers along streams, creeks, and rivers in the Commonwealth, and therefore, helps to protect our communities from flooding and pollution. This legislation establishes riparian buffer regulations for new development projects, encourages local governments to enforce buffer ordinances, and supports statewide action in the absence of municipal ordinances. This proposed legislation, which will only impact future development, would encourage a minimum 100 foot buffer for all streams and a minimum 300 foot buffer around Pennsylvania's cleanest streams (those designated High Quality or Exceptional Value) as well as streams listed as impaired by the state (streams that are failing for meet their water quality standards).

Riparian buffers provide an endless number of benefits to our communities and protect streams that our communities rely on for drinking water and recreation. The co-sponsors of this proposed legislation have prioritized the the health of Pennsylvania's waterways and the health of Pennsylvanians. Express your gratitude for their leadership and influence on this critical environmental and human health issue and urge them to continue to be a vocal supporter of riparian buffer requirements on all streams and additional protections for high quality and already damaged streams.

Send a letter using the sample letter below or write your own letter to the Co-sponsors of this important legislation:

Senator John C Rafferty, Jr.
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Senator John N. Wozniak
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Senator Anthony H. Williams
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Senator Edwin B. Erickson
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Senator Vincent J. Hughes
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Senator Michael J. Stack
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Senator Judith L. Schwank
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Senator Rob Teplitz
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Senator Daylin Leach
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Sample Letter:

As your constituent, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your co-sponsorship of the Riparian Buffer Protection Act, Senate Bill 1465. As a resident of Pennsylvania, I care about the water quality of streams and rivers. You obviously care as well, and I really appreciate your vocal support of legislations that protects our waters from pollutants and damage. Encouraging the protection of riparian buffers is vital for protecting my community from flooding and for preventing the pollution of my environment.

Without buffer regulations, I fear that our waterways are exposed to potential deforestation. I have seen the ramifications of development (residential, commercial and agricultural) in my own community. Scientific research has repeatedly shown that no other best management practice works as effectively as forested buffers at protecting our waters.

Thank you again for your dedication and perseverance to ensure water quality protection.