



Stream Buffers Under Attack – Don’t Let Them Be Cut

We have September 12, 13, 14 and 15 to be heard – they will be voting during a committee meeting midday on the 15th – please act now.

Pennsylvania Representatives Hahn and Miller are seeking to slash protection of streamside buffer requirements protecting our high quality and exception value streams.

Tell Pennsylvania Committee members not to go along.

Tell the PA House Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy to reject any legislation that would remove, diminish or alter the stream protections that existing the Pennsylvania’s Chapter 102 regulations.



HB 1565 and the so-called Miller Amendment threaten the health of Pennsylvania’s waterways and puts the priorities of the development industry above the needs of the citizens.

- HB1565 would remove the existing 150 foot buffer mandate for exceptional value and high quality streams.
- The Miller amendment proposed to allow the buffer cut if other practices are then implemented but the Miller amendment does not fix the damage that will be done if the buffer is cut and in fact gives developers an incentive to avoid buffer protection in their projects.

Both options must be rejected.

Forested riparian buffers provide benefits to streams that cannot be replaced by other management options. The 150 foot vegetated buffer requirement existing in Pennsylvania regulation does not just prevent pollution from entering a stream, but it provides other ecological benefits that other best management practices cannot and do not provide. So removing the buffer mandate, even if it is replaced by some other strategy, will significantly reduce the ecological and water quality benefits

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that an exceptional value/high quality stream gets under current law. For example, riparian forest buffers:

- reduce erosion, stream downcutting, and stream meandering that itself can become a source of sediment pollution and degradation to a stream;
- provide the necessary level of shading to protect streams from thermal pollution and known impacts associated with high UltraViolet light levels;
- increase the amount and quality of the instream aquatic ecosystem that can actually break down and remove pollution from a water way thereby removing pollution, not just preventing it;
- promote wider stream channels with large amounts of instream woody debris which delays the downstream movement of flood waters and helps to reduce flood peaks and their impact on downstream communities and ensures structures aren't built too close to the stream.

Allowing development too close to a stream is not just a source of pollution but it removes the healthy ecological structure necessary to support the healthiest of streams.

Phone and/or email and/or the members of the Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy (names, emails, addresses and faxes listed below) and tell them:

- Please reject HB 1565 and the Miller Amendment – the existing buffer requirement in the Chapter 102 regulations provide the protection our streams and communities need and should not be removed or changed.
- Protecting minimum 150 foot buffers is an appropriate cost of doing business for developers.
- There are not other management practices that can replace the protections for values that a forested buffer provides.
- Please protect our communities and please protect our environment for present and future generations — reject HB 1565 and the Miller Amendment.

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To learn more see the comment submitted by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and colleague organizations:

<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/resources/Letters/Miller%20-%20Hahn%20Buffers%20Repeal%20letter%209.11.14.pdf>