



Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

P.O. Box 8459 ■ Rachel Carson State Office Building
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Please Note: Our New Fax Number is 717-772-5748

June 7, 2001

Mr. Larry Tropea
Deputy Secretary for
Water Management
16th Floor – RCSOB
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Mr. ~~Tropea~~ *Larry*:

Council members and staff have participated in several of the department's Water Forums, and we commend you on pursuing public dialog and input in this fashion. The forums have been invaluable in engaging the public in defining both the issues and potential solutions.

Although our position on water resources management is already a matter of record, we thought it would be productive to again submit our recommendations to the record being compiled through the forums. I have enclosed a copy of the Council's position statement on Water Resources Management, along with a brief summary of the position paper.

As you know, Council advocates a holistic, comprehensive approach to water resource management. Pennsylvania's current approach is piecemeal at best, and has resulted in a hodgepodge of laws and authorities that vary from watershed to watershed. Pennsylvania's policy and resulting programs need to comprehensively protect and manage the quality and quantity of both surface and ground water.

The Commonwealth needs an integrated system of plans, policies, programs, projects and actions that provide for inventorying, evaluation, development, use, conservation and protection of water resources. We need legal and institutional systems to define water rights and resolve quality and quantity conflicts among water uses. Such a system will protect current and future users, aquatic systems and public health and safety.



Council stands ready to assist in developing potential solutions to the need to protect our water resources and our water users. We look forward to working with the Water Deputate in addressing these issues. Please call me at 787-4527 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan M. Wilson".

Susan M. Wilson
Executive Director

Enclosures