

Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

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Please Note: Our New Fax Number is 717-787-2878

March 19, 2002

Ms. Christine Martin
Deputy Secretary for
Water Management
16th Floor – RCSOB
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Ms. Martin:

Although our position on water resources management is already a matter of record, the Citizens Advisory Council would like to reaffirm our support for passage of the comprehensive water resources management legislation. Attached is a summary of the Council's Position Statement on Water Resources Management.

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.

While Council advocates a stronger, more comprehensive approach to both water management and well construction standards than is captured in the Department's approach, we can support the Department's proposal as a starting point, and improvement over the status quo.



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 Sue Wilson, Council's Executive Director, at 787-4527 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


David L. Strong
Chairperson

Enclosures