



pennsylvania environmental council

August 26, 2016

The Honorable Garth D. Everett
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
430 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 202084
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2084

Re: Support for House Resolution 908 (P.N. 3417)

Dear Representative Everett:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), I want to offer our support for H.R. 908, which directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study on water use fees for water quality management and improvement.

As you have strongly acknowledged through this resolution and your service with the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the need for enhanced investment in restoring and protecting water quality, not only in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed but statewide, is critical. Pennsylvania is obligated, pursuant to our own constitution and state and federal law, to address pollution to our waterways.

As demonstrated by compliance for the Chesapeake Bay alone, the costs of legacy and current impairment vastly exceed current resources and investment. If Pennsylvania does not provide leadership in these areas, the federal government will impose a solution that Commonwealth taxpayers are not likely to embrace.

A study developed pursuant to H.R. 908 would provide the proper basis to determine whether a fee on water use or consumption is appropriate for meeting water management needs throughout the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your leadership on water protection in the Commonwealth. We hope H.R. 908 will be approved by the House before the end of the current legislative session.

Sincerely,

John Walliser
Senior Vice President, Legal & Government Affairs