

April 29, 2019

To: Members of the House Game and Fisheries Committee
From: John Walliser, Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Re: Support for House Bill 1003 (P.N. 1155)

Dear Representatives:

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) would like to express its support for House Bill 1003 (P.N. 1155). This legislation strengthens the Fish and Boat Commission's ability to address signage and safety issues with low-head (run-of-the-river) dams; there are currently hundreds of these dams located throughout the Commonwealth.

PEC is the managing partner of the State Water Trails program, a network of 27 designated waterways covering some 2,130 miles of trail that are enjoyed by thousands of residents and visitors every year. Water trail managers communicate via maps and access point signage what users can expect to encounter on these routes, but the fact remains that poorly identified low-head dams present a hazard to safety. Providing the Fish and Boat Commission with better authority to enforce warning markers and signage at these dams will greatly reduce the risk of accidents and even loss of life.

We appreciate Representative Gillespie's sponsorship of House Bill 1003 and urge the Committee to take action to approve this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Walliser
Senior Vice President, Legal and Government Affairs
Pennsylvania Environmental Council