



September 20, 2021

To: Members of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee
Re: Support for House Bill 1694 (P.N. 1912)

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 1694, which amends the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act to provide protections to volunteers and volunteer organizations that maintain, improve, or otherwise provide access to land for recreational purposes.

Public lands and recreational amenities have witnessed an extraordinary surge in use over the past several years, particularly during the Covid pandemic. PEC has performed a series of [reports](#) on this growth, underscoring the extraordinary efforts of local organizations and individuals who develop and maintain these resources. The benefits to the public are clear – these resources provide free and accessible opportunities to citizens of our Commonwealth and help drive the tourism, business, and community growth that centers our state’s expanding recreational economy.

PEC’s [Public Lands Rides](#) and partnership in the [NEPA Outdoor Challenge](#) are just two examples of how our project work is bolstered by these public resources and our partners who help provide them. We greatly appreciate the sponsorship of this bipartisan legislation by Representatives White, Struzzi, Driscoll, and Warren, and urge the Committee to promptly consider and pass the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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