



pennsylvania environmental council

October 3, 2017

The Honorable John Yudichak
Pennsylvania Senate
Senate Box 203014
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3014

Dear Senator Yudichak:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), I would like to express our support for your proposed Resolution directing a study of certain permitting activities of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Permitting, both in terms of timing and completeness, has become a highly politicized issue. As we have stated in the past, PEC believes the regulated community and public deserve equal assurance that decisions are made using the best available information and as efficiently and transparently as possible.

While the Department is undertaking serious efforts toward achieving these goals, an objective analysis that holistically looks at factors affecting permitting programs at the Department, including assurance that sufficient resources are being provided to the agency to perform this central function, is valuable. We believe this is the appropriate and most productive external first step for what has proven to be an impassioned issue.

Ideally, this analysis can assist the Department's work toward continuous improvement, and provide the foundation for meaningful and inclusive dialogue and action.

We thank you, and the bill's co-sponsors, for advancing this legislation.

Sincerely,

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