



pennsylvania environmental council

February 3, 2020

To: Members of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Re: Support for Senate Bill 915 (P.N. 1437)

Dear Senators:

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) urges you to support Senate Bill 915 (P.N. 1437), which will be considered by the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on Tuesday (February 5, 2020). This legislation, which was developed through an inclusive stakeholder process, will protect water quality in our state and help with federal Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (Phase 3 WIP) requirements.

Senate Bill 915 updates the 1965 Pennsylvania Fertilizer Act to establish best practices for use of fertilizer, create a certification program for commercial use, promote public education and outreach, and require improved labeling and reporting. This legislation would help ensure that anyone, not just farmers, can decrease nutrient runoff and be part of the solution for cleaner Pennsylvania waters. Importantly, it also provides a pathway for a broader slate of reductions to count toward Phase 3 WIP compliance.

The Commonwealth faces an extraordinary challenge in meeting state and federal water quality standards – Senate Bill 915 will make that challenge easier and more cost effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Walliser

Senior Vice President, Legal & Government Affairs

Pennsylvania Environmental Council