

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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Reject Efforts to Block Clean Water Protections!

Butler Outdoor Club · Chester County Trail Club · The Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy · Lebanon Valley Hiking Club · North Country Trail Association · Sierra Club – Otzinachson Group · The Standing Stone Trail Club · Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club · Susquehanna Trailers Hiking Club

December 16, 2015

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Toomey
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sens. Casey and Toomey:

We, the above and undersigned clubs of the Keystone Trails Association, urge you to reject efforts to block clean water protections. Keystone Trails Association, is a volunteer-directed, public service organization comprised of membership organizations and individuals dedicated to providing, preserving, protecting and promoting recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania, and to representing and advocating the interests and concerns of the Pennsylvania hiking community.

Over 800,000 Americans have submitted favorable comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about protecting clean water. As avid recreationists who enjoy spending time in the outdoors, we truly understand the value of clean water which we often use from nearby streams and rivers when we are hiking for several days, often in remote areas. It is critically important that the headwaters of the rivers, streams, and lakes are protected.

The Commonwealth features spectacular state parks, streams, creeks, lakes, and waterfalls. Scenic overlooks, rock formations, wildflowers, and wildlife-viewing opportunities complete the mosaic of images that we enjoy. When exploring Penn's Woods, especially for more than a day, we look for something critical to our survival on the trail --- clean water. Whether we are going for a short day-hike or a multi-day backpacking trip, ensuring that there will be a steady supply of fresh, clean, and safe water

is critical to our planning. Clean, uncontaminated water for cooking and for drinking is essential for our safety. In addition, unpolluted water is necessary for fish and wildlife to thrive.

Many of the streams that we rely on for hydration were threatened and at risk of destruction, because of loopholes in the Clean Water Act. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water protections will protect the nearly 59 percent of Pennsylvania's streams -- and thousands of acres of wetlands -- that were historically protected by the Clean Water Act, but have lacked guaranteed protections for too long.

Please reject any legislative efforts to block clean water protections. We are counting on you to demonstrate leadership on this important issue and to show support for what all Americans want: clean water.

Sincerely,

Butler Outdoor Club
Harrisville

Ingrid Cantarella-Fox, President
Chester County Trail Club
West Chester

Rich McNulty, President
Susquehanna Trailers Hiking
Club
Wilkes-Barre

Ingrid Cantarella-Fox, President
The Horse-Shoe Trail
Conservancy

Sharon Southall, President
Lebanon Valley Hiking Club
Lebanon

Joyce Appel, President
North Country Trail Assoc.
East Brady

Jack Miller, Chair
Sierra Club – Otzinachson
Group
Orangeville

James Garthe, President
The Standing Stone Trail Club
Lewistown

Cindy Radich, President
Susquehanna Appalachian Trail
Club
Harrisburg