

October 23, 2014

Governor Tom Corbett

508 E-floor Main Capitol Building

Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett,

I am writing you as a concerned citizen, full time farmer, and former conservation district employee who was charged with helping farmers understand and remain in compliance with the Clean Water Act. I am currently a State and Federally Licensed Nutrient Management Consultant who continues to assist the farmers of Pennsylvania to remain compliant with the regulations while keeping their multigenerational family farms financially solvent and productive to feed the people of our great Commonwealth.

Quite honestly, I see time and again, farmers being burdened and harassed by far too broad of a jurisdiction over these regulations. The lands upon which we all farm were acquired by brow sweat and sacrifice. Sacrifice of families forgoing basic human comforts to keep the family farm alive and solvent. Sacrifice of veterans who shed blood to protect our constitutional right to own and profit from personal property. To allow any landowner's rights to be infringed upon is equal to desecration of the graves of those who fought so hard to protect our freedoms.

The citizens of the electorate and farmers alike have in common the desire for clean water. We all do. I am asking your office to continue your support of landowner rights by watching the progress of the EPA Clean Water Act's implications on your Department of Environmental Protection policy and delegation agreements as they are handed down from EPA to your state agencies. Please advise your acting Environmental Secretary, Dana Aunskt, and his those following in his footsteps to act responsibly and accountably in their implementation and enforcement of ***ANY clean streams laws within the Commonwealth that impact a farmer's ability to profit from his property.***

More specifically, I ask, that you be aware of and use your pen and signature judiciously in regards to any changes in Pennsylvania policy in regards to EPA's Clean Water Act.

The following **MUST** be guarded to further protect landowner's rights in the current act proposals which will certainly find their way to Pennsylvania policy makers:

1. Maintain the **Farming Exemption** in such policies.
2. Protect agricultural storm water practices from being classified as **Streams**.
3. **Define wetlands logically and realistically.**
4. *****Eliminate agency overlap. *****
5. **Fair compensation MUST be provided for regulator takings. (stealings).**

A very typical scenario of how this act affects Pennsylvanians can be seen by the hardships and persecution faced by the Brace family of Erie County, Pennsylvania. Case summaries and information can be seen here: <http://palandowners.org/the-bob-brace-case/>

I assure you that Mr. Brace's plight is but one public example of the fine line that every one of my friends and clients face every time they make a decision to start a tractor, or move a herd of cattle to a new pasture.... A minute in time can take a hardworking citizen from being a farmer to a "criminal" ...for WHAT?! Owning property and growing food.

Please keep those in your command chain cognizant of these threats to private property rights and support the landowners who feed our great Commonwealth.

Very truly yours,

Michael Wright, owner

Big Horn Ranch

Pittsfield, PA 16340

October 28, 2014

Governor Tom Corbett

508 E-floor Main Capitol Building

Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett,

I am writing you as an active responsible voter, sportsman, certified hunter/trapper education instructor and key member of several civic organizations.

My concern today revolves around the theft of farmland from the hard working farmers of our great Commonwealth. This "legalized theft" is guised by our lawmakers in the form of a pretty benign concept . This act is presented to the generally uneducated electorate as "taking" for the sake of clean water everywhere....enforced under The Clean Streams laws by many overlapping agencies on a state and federal level.

I have made my livelihood in the woods for many years and have been actively licensed and involved in the wildlife management field for over 35 years. I would like to point out, through example ,the REAL WORLD as it pertains to farmers and their care for the land. Many, many times, these hard working families are criminalized for doing what they were born to do...CREATE FOOD for those who cannot or will not create their own.

To keep this letter from being boilerplate rambling conjecture, I present for your consideration a landmark battle from right here in our Commonwealth.... that of Robert Brace and his family....

Mr. Brace's practices on his farm have been criminalized for 30 years....take whatever spin for the sake of governance or academia you must to justify your stance but here are the facts of how Mr. Braces farming practices impact our environment....

Whereas I have hunted, fished and trapped on tens of thousand of acres of private, state, and federally owned properties, Brace Farms honestly boasts some of the most diverse and healthy ecosystems I have ever encountered, anywhere. Far more diverse and productive than the millions of acres of State owned property which is managed specifically for wildlife propagation by PhD biologists employed by our Commonwealth....It is this simple....farmers farm for the love of the land. This is exemplified by Mr. Braces farming practices and all that he and his sons do to protect their soils and property for the next generation.

Mr Brace is one of millions of farmers who fight mother nature every single day to put food on our tables and solvency within their family businesses. Government in general needs to back off of the senseless persecution of our farmers.

As an elected official, you can easily accomplish this my keeping your eyes on the Clean Streams Laws, their ACTUAL impact on water quality, the overzealous enforcement of said laws by overlapping agencies, and the implications on the hardworking farmers of our Commonwealth.

Please visit this very important case summary <http://palandowners.org/the-bob-brace-case/> and educate your office on the theft of private land and property rights which commonly occurs right within your own precinct and devastates members of your very dear electorate.

Very truly yours,

Wenzel P. Soliday

Youngsville, Pennsylvania

November 29, 2013

Honorable Mike Kelly
1519 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman,

This letter is being written to express our concern over the gradual erosion of private property rights over several years. Since the passing of the Clean Water Act in 1972, government bureaucrats have used that legislation to continually strip private citizens of our constitutionally guaranteed rights to private property and due process. An ever changing definition of "navigable waters" has been the tool they have used to do this. "Navigable waters" has gone from a literal definition to its present definition that includes all water seen and unseen in this country. All a Federal or State regulatory agency has to do is to find water present on property allowing them to impose any restrictions they wish based on their interpretation of the term "navigable waters."

Private landowners have been at the mercy of these ambiguous regulations for years. Many times costing them thousands of dollars in fines, restitution, and legal fees, not to mention loss of use of the property. The examples are countless. All you need to do is talk to local farmers, homeowners, and business people. We've reached a point we need to address this injustice.

In the U.S. Senate, Senator Rand Paul has proposed a bill (S. 2122) to clarify the definition of "navigable waters" and the authority the federal government can legally impose on them. It would prohibit government agencies from reinterpreting these definitions without congressional consent. It would also mandate compensation for persons directly affected by the loss of property value due to these regulations.

We applaud this initiative at the federal level and urge everyone's support of it. We also recognize that the same type of reform is necessary at the state level. Uniformity is necessary to protect law abiding individuals who believe they are complying with the law only to find some other agency has different definitions and criteria.

Nobody wants to do anything that will pollute our waters or destroy our environment. All we ask for is some common sense to be put back in our laws and our Constitutional rights to be upheld. The undersigned represent a wide variety of landowners, farmers, business people, civic leaders, and outdoorsmen, who recognize the need for reform in these laws and regulations. We ask for your attention to these matters as our elected representatives in government.

With sincere thanks

Kevin Troyer
Waterford, PA

Joe Welch
Waterford, PA

Richard Little
Erie, PA

Travis Welch
Johnstown, PA