

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

From Milliron and Goodman Government Relations, LLC, Harrisburg, PA

**Berks County
Water & Sewer**
ASSOCIATION

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DEP Declares Drought Watch for 16 Counties

After a meeting of the Commonwealth Drought Task Force, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) declared a drought watch for 16 counties: Armstrong, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Fayette, Huntingdon, Indiana, Juniata, McKean, Mifflin, Perry, and Potter.

Residents are asked to reduce their individual water use 5 percent to 60 gallons per day, based on a statewide average of 62 gallons per person per day.

"We're asking residents in these 16 counties to use water wisely and follow simple water conservation tips to ease the demand for water," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

DEP recommends the following ways to reduce water use:

- Run water only when necessary. Don't let the faucet run while brushing your teeth or shaving. Shorten the time you let the water run to warm up before showering. Use a bucket to catch the water and then reuse it to water your plants.

- Run the dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.
- When watering your garden, be efficient and effective: Water in the evening or morning, and direct the water to the ground at the base of the plant, so you don't waste water through evaporation.
- Check for household leaks. For example, a leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water daily.
- Replace older appliances with high-efficiency, front-loading models that use about 30 percent less water and 40-50 percent less energy.
- Install low-flow plumbing fixtures and aerators on faucets.

Varying localized conditions during a drought watch may lead individual water suppliers or municipalities to request more stringent conservation actions by residents. DEP is notifying all water suppliers in these counties of the need to monitor their supplies and be prepared by updating their drought contingency plans as necessary. Some public water systems have already begun voluntary and mandatory water restrictions to preserve their drinking water supplies.

DEP makes drought watch, warning, or emergency declaration recommendations based on four indicators. The agency gets stream flow and

groundwater level data from a statewide network of gauges maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition, DEP monitors precipitation and soil moisture and gets information from public water suppliers.

DEP shares these data with other state and federal agency personnel who make up the Commonwealth Drought Task Force. Drought watch and warning declarations are determined by DEP, with support of the task force. Drought emergency declarations follow a similar process, with final approval by the Governor.

Find more detailed information at <https://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/NewsRoomPublic/www.dep.pa.gov/drought>.

Source: DEP Press Release, 8/21/2020

Pennsylvania's Unemployment Rate At 13.7

Percent in July Total nonfarm jobs were up 97,900

On August 21, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) released its employment situation report for July 2020.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was up one-half of a percentage point over the month to 13.7 percent in July. The national rate fell 0.9 percentage points from June's level to 10.2 percent. The commonwealth's unemployment rate increased by 9.3 percentage points from July 2019 while the national rate was up 6.5 points over the year.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force – the estimated number of residents working or looking for work – was up 88,000 over the month due to gains of 44,000 in both resident employment and unemployment.

Pennsylvania's total nonfarm jobs were up 97,900 over the month to 5,525,900 in July. Jobs increased in 7 of the 11 industry supersectors. The largest gain was in leisure & hospitality, up 47,100 jobs from June, which accounted for nearly half of the total nonfarm job increase.

Over the past three months, Pennsylvania has recovered nearly 48 percent of the total nonfarm jobs lost in March and April.

Over the year, total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania were down 541,900 with declines in 10 of the 11 supersectors. The largest 12-month change among supersectors was a decline of 167,800 jobs in leisure & hospitality. Additional information is available on the L&I website at www.dli.pa.gov.

Note: The above data are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted data provide the most valid month-to-month comparison.

Source: PA Department of Labor & Industry Press Release, 8/21/2020

Davis leads 30 House Democrats urging Wolf to issue moratorium on water, wastewater services provided by municipalities

On August 17, 2020, state Rep. Austin Davis, D-Allegheny, and 30 House Democrats sent a joint letter asking Gov. Tom Wolf to issue a moratorium on terminating water and wastewater service provided by municipal systems.

If issued, the moratorium would cover over 2,000 municipal water and wastewater systems in Pennsylvania that did not fall under the Public Utility Commission's emergency order that followed Wolf's March 6 Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for COVID-19.

"To date, municipal water and wastewater systems in our state are not under the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission and are not prohibited from terminating service during the COVID-19 pandemic," Davis said. "Clean water is the first line of defense in combatting COVID-19, but many of our residents are at risk of losing this necessity."

"The financial hardships many residents faced in recent months are likely to continue, so access to water and wastewater services is essential in ensuring the overall health of our residents, especially given the severity of the current public health emergency. It's because of this that we're asking Governor Wolf to make it a priority to ensuring all residents continue to have access to these utilities."

Click here to view a **copy of the letter sent to Wolf**
https://www.pahouse.com/files/Documents/Correspondence/2020-08-17_100623_Municipal%20Water%20Termination%20Letter%208.13.2020.pdf.

Source: Rep. Davis Press Release, 8/17/2020

Wolf Administration: More Than 200 New Water Infrastructure Improvement Projects Approved Throughout the Commonwealth

On August 18, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf announced 276 new PA Small Water and Sewer Program project approvals through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) to protect and improve municipalities' water systems.

"This vital grant program allows for costly but necessary water infrastructure improvements that would otherwise be unfeasible to smaller Pennsylvania communities," said Gov. Wolf. "When we invest into our communities now, they benefit for years to come, and today's approved projects will significantly improve the quality of life in these communities."

The small water and sewer projects approved today include the replacement of the Troy Street water main in Bradford County; improving the wastewater treatment facility in Huntingdon County; improving the above-ground reservoir rehabilitation in Lehigh County; the expansion of

the Pine Grove Township water system in Schuylkill County; and the extension of the Alexander Spring Road Waterline in Cumberland County. Other projects include improvements and replacements of water mains, water treatment plants, sewer systems, and water line extensions in hundreds of municipalities in 49 counties across the commonwealth. The total funding amount is more than \$61 million. A **complete list of Small Water and Sewer projects approved at yesterday's CFA meeting can be found here**
https://dced.pa.gov/library/?wpdmc=approved_projects.

The Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer program provides grants to assist municipalities with the construction, improvement, expansion or repair of their water supplies or sanitary sewer systems. Municipalities and municipal authorities are eligible to apply for up to \$500,000 in grant funding. For more information on the **PA Small Water and Sewer program**, click here
<https://dced.pa.gov/programs/pa-small-water-sewer/>.

For more information about DCED and the CFA, visit <https://dced.pa.gov/>.

Source: Gov. Wolf's Press Office, 8/18/2020

Wolf Administration Announces More Than \$8 Million in Funding to Support Water and Sewer Projects in 22 Counties

On August 19, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf announced the approval of more than \$8 million in funding to support H2O PA Flood Control, High Hazard Dams, and Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Stormwater projects through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA).

"Investments in our water and sewer systems preserve Pennsylvania's infrastructure and the health of our communities," said Gov. Wolf. "My administration is committed to the health and safety of residents in all corners of the commonwealth,

and the funding approved yesterday will benefit communities for years to come."

The **H2O PA program** <https://dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/commonwealth-financing-authority-cfa/h20-pa/> provides for single-year and multi-year grants for the construction of drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer projects; the construction or renovation of flood control projects; and the repair or rehabilitation of high-hazard unsafe dams.

The H2O PA projects approved during the CFA meeting are:

Flood Control

The Turtle Creek maintenance project in Allegheny County was approved for \$100,000 to remove sediment and clear vegetation on the bank of Turtle Creek. This project will restore the design level of flood protection and safeguard the lives and property of Turtle Creek Watershed residents.

The City of Dubois Sandy Lick Creek Stream rehabilitation project in Clearfield County was approved for \$710,000 to restore the streambank, remove the gravel bar and for engineering.

The Borough of Clarks Summit Watershed Flood Control and Protection project in Lackawanna County was approved for \$200,000 to implement Urban Stream Restoration, re-constrict the streambed, reinforce portions of the streambed with rock armoring and natural vegetation, and construct stone weirs and natural pools. This project will also reestablish the hydraulic cross-section and alignment of this corridor.

The Rice Township Ice Ponds Dam project in Luzerne County was approved for \$508,833 to dewater the lake per Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission specifications, install a watertight cofferdam, dewater the remaining lake between the cofferdam and the spillway, bore a 24-inch diameter hole through the bottom of the dam, install a metal sleeve and a valve gate, pass all engineering and Department of Environmental Protection inspections, refill the lake, leave the cofferdam in

place, clear the spillway and achieve certification that the dam is compliant with Pennsylvania law.

The Dupont Borough Phase II Flood Mitigation Control Rehabilitation project in Luzerne County was approved for \$507,926 to repair concrete joints, repair sections in need, and for maintenance to prevent lifting of concrete sections, water eroding underneath the concrete slabs, deteriorating concrete on the wave reduction walls, failing gaskets, and missing grout in joints. The funds will be used to support construction, engineering and permitting.

The total funding for these projects is just over \$2 million.

High Hazard Dams

The City of Reading Egleman's Lower Dam Modification project in Berks County was approved for \$350,000 to lower the elevation of the dam by four feet and raise the bottom of the pond by four to five feet, to create a water depth of three to four feet, which is the depth necessary for growing bass. The principal spillway will also be modified to regulate the average water level. The overall water surface area of the pond will be reduced by 25 percent. The modifications are aimed at reducing the dam hazard classification from high hazard to low hazard.

Water, Sewer, and Storm

The 47 approved projects include stormwater and sewer line upgrades, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, street stormwater improvements, sanitary sewer line replacements and more across 22 counties throughout the commonwealth. A **complete list of H2O projects** <https://dced.pa.gov/download/Approved%20Projects%202019-03-26%20-%20H2O%20PA/?wpdmdl=88928> is available.

For more information about DCED and the CFA, visit <https://dced.pa.gov/>.

Source: Gov. Wolf's Press Office, 8/19/2020

PENNVEST Announces Small Project Initiative (SPI) Funding Program

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) board of directors recently approved a new funding opportunity for lower-cost water quality projects, allowing for accelerated funding approval. The Small Project Initiative (SPI) is available statewide and is designed to efficiently support repairs, short-term construction for water, wastewater, non-point source and stormwater improvements.

SPI funding is available for public or private entities with a maximum award amount of \$500,000 in low-interest loan funding. Projects must address a service area of less than 12,000 people or incorporate less than 1,000 system hook-ups. The program allows PENNVEST staff to perform appropriate reviews and render a decision targeted at two weeks, rather than requiring approval at a quarterly board of directors meeting.

“This new Small Project Initiative is the perfect tool for communities that have defined water quality needs, with planning and permitting in place and ready quickly move to bidding and construction.” said Eric Menzer, chairman of the PENNVEST board of directors. “SPI funding is a flexible opportunity for short-term improvements and can be approved and distributed by PENNVEST staff in the most timely fashion. In addition, the funding serves as an ideal matching award for other existing federal, state or local funding opportunities such as the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)’s PA Small Water and Sewer Program.”

Since its inception in 1988, PENNVEST has funded more than 3,000 clean water projects throughout Pennsylvania, providing nearly \$10 billion in funding. A more detailed explanation of the **Small Project Initiative** can be found at <https://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Information/Funding-Programs/Pages/Small-Projects.aspx>.

Source: PennVEST Press Release, 8/18/2020

EPA awards \$33.9 million to Pennsylvania for drinking water improvement projects

On August 20, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it has awarded \$33.9 million to Pennsylvania for drinking water improvement projects throughout the state.

This grant, along with \$6.8 million in state matching funds, further capitalizes on Pennsylvania's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program that provides low interest loans to communities for drinking water projects.

"EPA's continued commitment to supporting infrastructure projects with our state and local partners helps ensure residents have affordable access to safe drinking water and cleaner waterways," said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. "EPA is proud to support projects throughout Pennsylvania that support public health by improving drinking water."

The grant money will be combined with repayments from prior loans and interest earnings to provide direct funding to communities.

One project included additional funding to the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority to support replacement of 2,800 public lead service line connections, which includes an estimated 2,400 private lead service lines. Overall, seven miles of lead service pipe will be replaced.

For more information about **DWSRF**, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf>.

For more information about **Pennsylvania's State Revolving Fund program**, visit: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/InfrastructureFinance/Pages/default.aspx>.

Source: EPA Press Release, 8/20/2020

New PUC Report Indicates Severe Storms Drive Record

Number of Power Outage Events across Pennsylvania

Downed Trees Remain Number One Cause of Power Outages as Overall Storm Tempo Increases and Reliability Slips in Most Regions

A total of 52 "reportable outage events" disrupted electric service to residents and businesses across Pennsylvania - a record high number of incidents since the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) began collecting reliability data in 1993.

Reportable power outage events, mainly driven by severe thunderstorms during the spring and fall, interrupted service to 1,988,188 customers last year, according to the PUC's latest **Electric Service Reliability Report**

http://www.puc.pa.gov/General/publications_report/s/pdf/Electric_Service_Reliability2019.pdf. This is different from previous spikes in outage figures that were driven by a small number of high-impact storms, like hurricanes or severe winter storms.

Pennsylvania continues to see an increasing tempo of storms disrupting electric service and declines in overall reliability.

The PUC report details reliability benchmarks and standards for the 2019 calendar year for state's 11 electric distribution companies (EDCs), including Citizens' Electric, Duquesne Light, Metropolitan Edison, PECO, Pennsylvania Electric, Pennsylvania Power, Pike County Light & Power, PPL Electric Utilities, UGI Utilities, Wellsboro Electric and West Penn Power.

Trees Issues Drive Service Interruptions

Trees continue to be a key factor for service reliability - especially trees that are located outside the utility right-of-way. Downed trees or falling tree limbs are the number one cause of electric service outages across the state.

Tree damage during major weather events accounted for about 1 billion "customer minutes" of service interruptions.

EDCs are performing and intensifying necessary vegetation management on their right-of-way corridors. However, off-right-of-way trees are causing most of the damage and often result in road closures that lead to significant delays in power restoration and negatively impact the reliability and resilience of Pennsylvania's electric distribution system.

Reliability Slipping

According to the report, overall reliability performance of most EDCs in meeting benchmark performance metrics continued to be poor in 2019. Additionally, the reliability performance and resilience of the overall Pennsylvania electrical distribution system is trending negative - raising additional concerns about future performance.

Recommendations for Reliability Improvement

In response to the issue and trends identified in the **PUC's Electric Service Reliability Report** http://www.puc.pa.gov/General/publications_report/s/pdf/Electric_Service_Reliability2019.pdf, the Commission has made a series of recommendations, including:

- Enhanced tree trimming and vegetation management initiatives;
- Coordination and collaboration with property owners to better address concerns about trees outside utility rights of way; and,
- Continued accelerated replacement of aging infrastructure.

Additionally, the PUC is encouraging the implementation of a new formalized and sustainable reliability improvement initiative to promote operational excellence. This was originally developed successfully for high-voltage transmission system operations in areas such as reliability, resilience, security, human performance, equipment performance and asset management, operating experience exchange and superior practices, and continuous performance improvement processes and training.

PUC Benchmarks and Oversight

In addition to monitoring EDCs' reliability performance, the PUC's Bureau of Technical Utility

Services (TUS) has established inspection and maintenance standards for electric transmission and distribution systems. TUS continues to work with utilities on improving reliability through corrective action plans which have been institutes for several EDCs, along with Long Term Infrastructure Improvement Plans (LTIIPs) which serve as "road maps" for future system enhancements.

About the PUC

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission balances the needs of consumers and utilities; ensures safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates; protects the public interest; educates consumers to make independent and informed utility choices; furthers economic development; and fosters new technologies and competitive markets in an environmentally sound manner.

Visit the PUC's website at <http://www.puc.pa.gov/> for recent news releases and video of select proceedings. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube. Search for the "Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission" or "PA PUC" on your favorite social media channel for updates on utility issues and other helpful consumer information.

Source: PUC Press Release, 8/20/2020

DEP Local Climate Action Program Helps Community Leaders Address Climate Change in 139 Municipalities

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) launched the second year of its **Local Climate Action Program (LCAP)**

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/climate/Pages/Local-Climate-Action.aspx> this week with 21 participants representing 139 municipalities statewide. From now through June 2021, participants will learn how to measure local greenhouse gas emissions, assess local climate-related vulnerabilities, and develop plans to reduce

emissions and manage climate change impacts in their communities.

"DEP is excited to start the second year of the Local Climate Action Program. Through this innovative online program, we're helping to meet communities' need for information on emissions and climate change impacts and expertise in planning to reduce those impacts," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

Governor Tom Wolf has identified climate change as the most critical environmental threat and in 2019 set a statewide goal to lower greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.

The Local Climate Action Program pairs municipalities with college students for assistance in developing the components of their local climate action plans. DEP enlists ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, a national nonprofit that fosters sustainable development, to provide online training and one-on-one technical assistance to the municipal/student teams. This training is funded by a \$49,942 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The municipal/student teams will develop greenhouse gas inventories of local building, transportation, agriculture, waste management, and other sectors. They'll review the strategies and actions recommended in the **2018 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan** <https://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/climate/Pages/PA-Climate-Action-Plan.aspx> and incorporate some of them into their local climate action plans. The teams will work to identify local climate-related vulnerabilities, such as extreme rainfall and extreme heat days. They'll also conduct public meetings and online surveys to engage community members in the planning process.

Drawing on this information, the municipal/student teams will use a template to draft their local climate action plans, detailing strategies, actions, metrics, and timelines. Plans will include ways to lower greenhouse gas emissions in commercial and residential buildings, energy production, waste management, transportation, agriculture, and other areas.

The teams will then share their plans with community residents and public officials. To become final, a draft plan must be adopted by the local governing body or mayor.

The 2020-21 LCAP includes the following 21 participants, representing 139 municipalities:

- In Allegheny County: Ben Avon Borough and CONNECT (Congress of Neighboring Communities)
- In Beaver County: Cities of Aliquippa and Beaver Falls and Borough of Monaca
- In Bucks County: Middletown Township
- In Crawford County: City of Meadville
- Cumberland County
- In Dauphin County: City of Harrisburg; Susquehanna Township
- In Delaware County: Chadds Ford Township; Havertown; Upper Darby Township
- In Lancaster County: City of Lancaster; Warwick Township
- In Lehigh County: City of Allentown
- In Montgomery County: Abington Township; Montgomery County Consortium of Communities
- In Northampton County: City of Easton
- In Northumberland County: City of Shamokin
- In Westmoreland County: City of Monessen

Eighteen participants contain at least one census block group that meets DEP's criteria for an Environmental Justice (EJ) area. DEP considers a community an EJ area if 20 percent or more individuals live in poverty and/or 30 percent or more population are residents of color as defined by the US Census. LCAP includes training from DEP EJ Director Allison Acevedo on the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations, and the importance of actively engaging community residents who are being significantly impacted by climate change.

Pittsburgh is participating in LCAP through CONNECT. "Measuring greenhouse gas emissions at the local level is an important way for local governments to understand the impact that climate-altering pollutants have on our communities, and, just as importantly, helps them create strategies to reduce emissions," said Pittsburgh Mayor William

Peduto. "I've seen firsthand how emissions inventories can help develop community-driven strategies, and it's great to see DEP, our neighbors in the CONNECT communities, and ICLEI working together."

Students from Allegheny College, Bucknell University, Dickinson College, Drexel University, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, Muhlenberg College, Penn State University, Shippensburg University, Susquehanna University, Temple University, University of Pittsburgh, and Wilkes University will participate in the program.

Municipalities learn about LCAP through outreach by the DEP Energy Programs Office and Pennsylvania Municipal League, and interest has been strong. Admission is first come, first served, with consideration given to including communities from around the state.

The **2020 Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment** <https://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/climate/Pages/impacts.aspx>, produced for DEP by the Penn State University Environment and Natural Resources Institute, shows the state has experienced a nearly 2° F rise in average temperature, an approximately 10 percent increase in average annual rainfall, and increased frequency of extreme precipitation since 1901.

It's projected that by mid-century every county will continue to get warmer and wetter, with average rainfall and extreme precipitation continuing to increase 8 to 12 percent, particularly in winter and spring, while average temperature rises by 4.9° F.

Source: DEP Press Release, 8/17/2020

Metcalf, ERE Committee to Consider Next Round of Expert Testimony on Protecting Citizens, Energy Jobs from RGGI

WHAT: PA House Environmental Resources and Energy (ERE) Committee Majority Chairman Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) will once again convene a public hearing to receive expert, factual testimony on the consequences of Pennsylvania joining any cap-and-trade, carbon tax-imposing emissions program such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

The hearing will feature presentations from Vince Brisini, Olympus Power, LLC; Retired Air Pollution Meteorologist Roger Caiazza; Walter Schroth, Schroth Industries Inc. and member of Pennsylvania Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee; and Caleb Stewart Rossiter, Ph.D., C02 Coalition.

Participation in RGGI could eliminate more than 30% of the state's current energy generation capacity, kill thousands of family-sustaining energy jobs, undermine Pennsylvania's status as a leading natural gas producer and energy exporter, and guarantee skyrocketing electricity rates for everyone through excessive carbon taxes and overregulation.

WHEN: Monday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Room 140 Main Capitol Building, State Capitol, Harrisburg.

LIVESTREAM: Barring technical difficulties, Monday's hearing will be streamed live on <http://www.repmetcalfe.com/>.

Source: Rep. Metcalfe Press Release, 8/20/2020

Comitta announces bipartisan legislation to preserve the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee

On August 21, 2020, state Rep. Carolyn Comitta, D-Chester, announced that she will be the co-prime sponsor on **House Bill**

2797

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=h&type=b&bn=2797>; bipartisan legislation that would maintain the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, as it is currently scheduled to close on July 1, 2021.

"Since its formation in 1968, the JLCC's mission remains to care for our natural resources and ensure that our executive branch and state government agencies do their jobs," Comitta said. "It can be as simple as electronic waste and tires being recycled and disposed of properly, to keeping acid mine drainage out of our water supply. I'm proud to be a part of this bicameral, bipartisan committee that has worked to preserve and protect the health and safety of all Pennsylvanians, and hope to see its continuation."

"For more than 50 years, the JLCC has provided invaluable legislative oversight to the executive branch and delivered numerous up-to-the-minute policy reports to the General Assembly," Rep. Parke Wentling, R-Crawford/Erie/Lawrence/Mercer, said. "In addition to providing thorough and consistent analysis of environmental and conservation law, the JLCC has also made significant progress in addressing other pressing issues such as prescribed burns, waste tire remediation, electronic waste recycling, and rails-to-trails initiatives. It is my hope that this legislation paves the way for the JLCC to deliver many more years of outstanding public service in the critical areas of responsible environmental conservation, protection and stewardship."

Wentling is prime sponsor of the bill and chair of the JLCC. Comitta, in addition to being the co-prime sponsor, is the vice chair of the JLCC.

Comitta said the JLCC was instrumental in passing the Environmental Rights Amendment of the Pennsylvania Constitution (Article 1, Section 27) in 1971. This was only after three years of operation.

The JLCC has facilitated and staffed the Legislative Forestry Task Force for nearly 20 years, with a focus on health and productivity for Pennsylvania forests.

Source: Rep. Comitta Press Release, 8/21/2020

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