



Open Letter to  
Members of the General Assembly  
and Governor Wolf

March 20, 2019

Pennsylvanians want to reduce destructive flooding, restore waterways to productive life, and protect our drinking water. We need to do this to protect public safety and health. We need to do this as a moral imperative and constitutional responsibility. And we need to do this because the investments made to restore and protect our waters produce long-term cost savings and economic returns that more than pay for the initial investments.

The organizations and people of the Growing Greener Coalition urge the General Assembly and Governor Wolf to **greatly boost the state's investments in reducing flooding, restoring waterways, protecting drinking water, and providing other conservation benefits:**

- The Coalition reiterates that Pennsylvania can't afford to backslide in its community and conservation investments. Every dollar flowing into the **Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund** and the **Environmental Stewardship Fund** needs to be invested in projects that protect and restore Pennsylvania's environmental assets, not diverted to pay for government operations.
- The Coalition applauds the Governor's attention to conservation investment needs in his **Restore Pennsylvania** proposal and encourages legislators to work with the Administration to make these investments happen.

In building on past successes and boosting the state's conservation investments, the General Assembly and Governor can achieve many lasting and diverse benefits for Pennsylvanians, including:

- Major reductions in property damage and loss of human life caused by flooding
- Progress for local governments in meeting MS4 requirements
- State progress in meeting mandatory Chesapeake Bay requirements
- Safer drinking water and lower water treatment costs
- More miles of streams restored for recreation and economic use

- Federal investments leveraged that otherwise would not come to Pennsylvania
- Boosts to the agricultural and outdoor recreation industries
- Restoring parks for communities across the Commonwealth
- And much more

The public's enthusiasm for these investments continues to be overwhelming. For example, 75% of Republican voters, 82% of Democrats, and 87% of independents actually support spending more on conservation, even if it would mean taxing themselves more to do it. (See survey results at <https://conservationtools.org/conservation-benefits/205>.)

Thank you for your attention. For more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to the people and organizations of the Coalition including:

Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Harry Campbell, PA Executive Director  
[hcampbell@cbf.org](mailto:hcampbell@cbf.org)

Pennsylvania Park and Forest Foundation  
Marci Mowery, President  
[mmowery-ppff@pa.net](mailto:mmowery-ppff@pa.net)

Conservation Voters of PA  
Joshua McNeil, Executive Director  
[joshua.mcneil@conservationpa.org](mailto:joshua.mcneil@conservationpa.org)

Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society  
Tim Herd, CEO  
[herd@prps.org](mailto:herd@prps.org)

Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds  
R. John Dawes, Executive Director  
[rjdawes1@pennsylvaniawatersheds.org](mailto:rjdawes1@pennsylvaniawatersheds.org)

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Tom Sexton, Director, Northeast Regional Office  
[tom@railstotrails.org](mailto:tom@railstotrails.org)

Lancaster Farmland Trust  
Jeffrey Swinehart, Chief Operating Officer  
[jswinehart@lancasterfarmlandtrust.org](mailto:jswinehart@lancasterfarmlandtrust.org)

Sierra Club PA Chapter  
Joanne Kilgour, Chapter Director  
[joanne.kilgour@sierraclub.org](mailto:joanne.kilgour@sierraclub.org)

Natural Lands  
Oliver P. Bass, President  
[oliver.bass@natland.org](mailto:oliver.bass@natland.org)

The Conservation Fund  
Kyle D. Shenk, Pennsylvania State Director  
[kshenk@conservationfund.org](mailto:kshenk@conservationfund.org)

PennFuture (Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future)  
Jacquelyn Bonomo, President & CEO  
[bonomo@pennfuture.org](mailto:bonomo@pennfuture.org)

The Nature Conservancy, PA Chapter  
Ronald L. Ramsey, Senior Policy Advisor  
[rramsey@tnc.org](mailto:rramsey@tnc.org)

Pennsylvania Environmental Council  
John Walliser, Senior Vice President  
[jwalliser@pecpa.org](mailto:jwalliser@pecpa.org)

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
Cynthia Carrow, Vice President  
[ccarrow@paconserve.org](mailto:ccarrow@paconserve.org)

Pennsylvania Land Trust Association  
Andrew M. Loza, Executive Director  
[aloza@conserveland.org](mailto:aloza@conserveland.org)