



URGENT

**Open letter to
Pennsylvania Senators**

re. approve pending Killion amendment to SB 575

June 18, 2019

The organizations and people of the Growing Greener Coalition urge Pennsylvania Senators to **approve the pending Killion amendment to SB 575**. The amendment, by ending the practice of using Environmental Stewardship Fund monies to pay down the Growing Greener 2 bonds issued during the Rendell administration, will boost ESF investments by \$26 million a year.

Demand for Environmental Stewardship Fund investments hugely exceeds funding availability. And Pennsylvania's need for increased environmental investments—whether to reduce destructive flooding, restore waterways to productive life, and protect drinking water or to address the Chesapeake Bay watershed, MS4, and other regulatory requirements that aim to achieve the same—is vast. So too with state park and forest and county and local park infrastructure needs, farmland preservation, and more. **Senator Killion's amendment takes a small but important step in boosting Pennsylvania's environmental investments.**

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* (which is not a feature of the Killion amendment). See survey results at <https://conservationtools.org/conservation-benefits/205>.

The Killion amendment also makes a few tweaks to the Environmental Stewardship Fund supported by the Growing Greener Coalition: one, ensuring that increased investments go to both state parks and forests and grants to local communities for environmental projects; and two, providing a pathway to leverage untapped federal tax incentives and private philanthropy for farmland preservation (while increasing funding levels for county programs).

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

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