

RESOLUTION R – 2014 – 89

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

A Resolution by the Luzerne County Council Encouraging and Supporting a Greater Investment of Resources to Clean Pennsylvania's Rivers and Streams

WHEREAS, the County of Luzerne, Pennsylvania, has served well over 300,000 residents of Luzerne County since 1786; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, constitutes the chief governing body of Luzerne County, with legislative and policy-making powers that affect each resident's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County has the responsibility to assure the fiscal health and integrity of Luzerne County; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County has the responsibility of planning for and implementing projects that accomplish and bring forth safe water resource management; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is estimated to have more than more than 83,000 miles of streams, nearly 4,000 lakes, and 80 trillion gallons of groundwater; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's ability to attract growing businesses and to provide the quality of life this governing body seeks for its residents depends on the Commonwealth properly prioritizing clean water infrastructure and funding for stormwater management; without such an increase in prioritization and funding to address these issues, our rivers and streams will continue to be susceptible to pollution and the degradation of the Commonwealth's most precious resource – water; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution states that, "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people"; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County realizes that the Commonwealth is losing more forest, wildlife habitat, farmland and other open spaces to development than it is able to preserve; and that the Commonwealth has more than 19,000 miles of rivers and streams that do not meet basic water quality standards and of those, 5,800 come from agriculture, 5,500 from abandoned mine drainage and 4,300 from urban and suburban runoff; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County wishes to encourage and support a greater investment of resources to clean Pennsylvania's rivers and streams before irreversible damage occurs to the places we live, work and raise our families. Clean water provides for greater health, stronger communities and thriving economies within our region.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

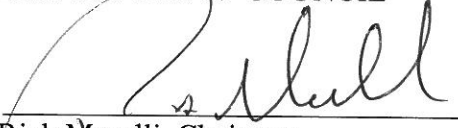
1. Luzerne County supports increased state investments to be made by the General Assembly and the Governor with dedicated, sustainable and longterm funding sources, and
2. the signed resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor of Pennsylvania, candidates for Governor, and our respective state legislators.

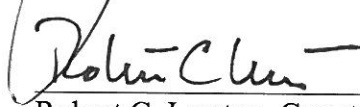
This Resolution shall become effective six days after adoption.

ADOPTED at a meeting of the Luzerne County council held on September 23, 2014.


LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

By:


Rick Morelli, Chairman


Robert C. Lawton, County Manager

Attest:


Brittany M. Ward, Clerk of Council