



**NORTH WALES WATER AUTHORITY**  
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*Pure water, quality service...naturally*

November 14, 2011

Senator Edwin B. Erickson, Chairman  
Senate Majority Policy Committee  
Senate of Pennsylvania  
281 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3026

**Public Hearing on Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management.**

S.B. 1261, P.N. 1625 - 2011

Dear Senator Erickson,

On behalf of the North Wales Water Authority, (NWWA) please allow me to express our strong support for the enactment of above referenced Senate bill.

The NWWA currently serves public water to seven (7) municipalities within the Bucks and Montgomery County regions, with more than Twenty-Seven Thousand (27,000) retail customers in our current service area. We also provide additional wholesale water to several neighboring municipal water companies and local Authorities. In addition to our water operations, the NWWA also operates a wastewater treatment facility, located within the Wissahickon Watershed area.



As our water operations are dependent upon maintaining a source of both surface and groundwater, which is both reliable and clean, proper stormwater management and protection of the local aquifer is essential to our operations.

The ongoing need to protect our aquifers, coupled with recent mandates to properly manage stormwater and satisfy new TMDL requirements, and has created both a physical and financial challenge to both the Authority, and the municipalities we serve.

Rather than spending precious resources opposing these efforts, it is instead the objective of this Authority to work cooperatively with the PaDEP, the EPA, and our local municipalities, to find ways to economically manage storm water and stormwater facilities - on a regional basis.

We have already developed a business model which would allow us to offer stormwater management services to our local municipalities, and we are prepared to move forward with planning for the implementation of this program – as soon as we are assured that we have the legal authority to proceed. The legislation now being considered will fill this important gap.

In summary, we believe that the issue of properly managing stormwater is best addressed on a regional and cooperative manner, and not by a duplication of services - and costs - by each individual municipality.

Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities were initially formed and have served very well in providing utilities spanning municipal boundary lines for many years. This same level of success is possible with stormwater, provided the proper legal authority is granted.

We are ready to proceed in addressing this important environmental issue – however we need your support, including the enactment of Senate Bill 1261, as proposed.

We trust that this legislation will move forward expeditiously, and that we will have the opportunity to move forward with our plans as needed to offer this essential services to our local municipalities, and to assist all taxpayers they serve.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and we would be pleased to meet for further discussions with any appropriate officials at the state and federal levels, if desired.

Sincerely,

North Wales Water Authority,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert C. Bender". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert C. Bender

Executive Director