

March 22, 2021

To: Members of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee  
Re: Support for Senate Bill 251 (P.N. 275)

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and Trout Unlimited, we urge you to support Senate Bill 251 (P.N. 275) which will be considered by the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on Tuesday (March 23, 2021). This legislation, which was developed through an inclusive stakeholder process, will protect water quality in our state and help with federal Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (Phase 3 WIP) requirements.

Senate Bill 251 updates the 1965 Pennsylvania Fertilizer Act to establish best practices for use of fertilizer, create a certification program for commercial use, promote public education and outreach, and require improved labeling and reporting. This legislation would help ensure that anyone, not just farmers, can decrease nutrient runoff and be part of the solution for cleaner Pennsylvania waters. Importantly, it also provides a pathway for a broader slate of reductions to count toward Phase 3 WIP compliance.

The Commonwealth faces an extraordinary challenge in meeting state and federal water quality standards – Senate Bill 251 will make that challenge easier and more cost effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shannon Gority  
Pennsylvania Executive Director  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

John Walliser  
Senior Vice President, Legal & Government Affairs  
Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Jennifer Orr-Greene  
Eastern Policy Director  
Trout Unlimited