

**Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**

226 Donohoe Road Suite 110, Greensburg, PA 15601

(724) 832-3625 (724) 832-3625 (fax)

www.wpcamr.org www.AMRClearinghouse.org



November 13, 2009

Secretary John Hanger  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
RCSOB  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Secretary Hanger:

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) thanks you and the Department of Environmental Protection for providing funding of the Conservation District Watershed Specialist program through 2012. Because of this support, the Commonwealth's Watershed Specialists will continue to provide valuable outreach and education, offer technical assistance to watershed groups, and coordinate on-the-ground pollution reduction projects that result in improved water quality.

We are especially appreciative of the Department's support for the Watershed Specialist program in light of the difficult economic climate and widespread budget cuts. The program, a keystone of support for Pennsylvania's watershed movement, fortunately has strong supporters from within the DEP and within our communities as well. The Department's commitment affirms the value of the watershed movement in general and the Watershed Specialist program in particular.

Pennsylvania has a multitude of legacy environmental problems stemming from the days of unregulated coal mining, more than any other state. The partnerships existing between the DEP, grassroots environmental groups, the County Conservation Districts, and organizations such as WPCAMR have shown that together we can make great strides in improving our watersheds. We believe this approach is tremendously cost effective and leads to far more environmental improvement than would occur otherwise.

WPCAMR will continue to do its part by publicizing the good work provided by the Watershed Specialist program and the Department's show of confidence. We hope a widespread recognition of the program's value will eventually lead to permanent funding.

Sincerely,

***"Take a stand for reclamation"***