

**Testimony of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding before the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee regarding Senate Bill 792**

**A plan to update the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Act**

**June 5, 2018**

Chairman Causer, Chairman Pashinski, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss changes to the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Act, as described in Senate Bill 792. This proposed legislation is a result of three years of development through a stakeholder process that included scientists and research institutions, industry, and our own Fertilizer Advisory Board, all with the shared goal of lowering nutrient load to our local streams. This all-inclusive approach to stakeholder engagement was extended to the legislature, as well. This bipartisan bill was reported unanimously from the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Appropriations. It later passed the full Senate with a vote of 47-3. Since its arrival in the House, Department of Agriculture staff have had extensive conversations on the bill with Republican and Democratic Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee staff. **We have greatly appreciated both chambers' bipartisan approach to SB 792.**

For the first time in Pennsylvania's history, SB 792 creates a professional certification program for fertilizer applicators and promotes best practices by all fertilizer users, yet retains important exemptions for the private application of fertilizer by our farmers who are already governed by other statutes. Prior legislative initiatives focused only on the lawn care industry and were not a good fit for Pennsylvania. While lawn fertilizer legislation has been passed in 11

states, SB 792 has been uniquely designed to fit Pennsylvania. It respects the fact that we have a strong Fertilizer Act. It builds on an existing training program for lawn care businesses. And it is equally concerned about water quality locally and for the Chesapeake Bay.

The proposed legislation addresses all fertilizer applications, not just those for turf. The intent of this legislation is to ensure that not just turf applicators, but all industries, are knowledgeable of and accountable for applications. The overall best practices contained in this legislation are what any applicator should be doing currently. These practices promote proper fertilizer application, professionalism on the part of applicator businesses, and reduced runoff from over-application of nutrients.

One final introductory point I would like to make is the timeliness of this legislation. Should SB 792 be enacted, it will allow incorporation of fertilizer components into Phase 3 of Pennsylvania's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), which is presently under development. The proposed nutrient restrictions and application rates for lawn fertilizer will be an integral part of the success of the Phase 3 plan and will play a key role in revitalizing the 19,900 miles of impaired waterways in Pennsylvania. As the pie charts included as addendums to this written testimony illustrate, both nitrogen and phosphorous loads from developed lands to the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Pennsylvania have increased over the past 32 years, while nitrogen loads from agricultural lands have decreased and phosphorus loads have remained largely steady. As such, this bill promises to allocate appropriately the responsibility for reducing our state's nutrient contributions to the bay—a burden largely borne by the agricultural industry under the present regulatory framework.

In crafting this legislation, unlike other states that chose to pass separate laws to address turf fertilizers, we took this as an opportunity to build upon and modernize our current Fertilizer Act, enacted in 1956. This eases the burden on both regulators and industry, because they are impacted by one overall fertilizer law versus two separate laws. Language from the current law has been modified to reflect modern definitions and industry practices. We clarified language that has become a regulatory burden, such as the clear exemption in the fertilizer definition for manure that is already regulated under nutrient management laws.

This fertilizer law would build upon best management practices already in use by the agricultural sector and extend many of those practices to all users of fertilizer including non-agricultural industries. These are practices most professional applicators have already begun to implement and that should be practiced by all applicators to ensure fertilizer is being stored and applied in a way that benefits plants and protects the environment.

SB 792 establishes for commercial and public fertilizer applicators a new certification program in which the Department registers, educates and monitors applicators to ensure implementation of primary best management practices. With the new certification program comes new requirements for licensing, training of employees, record keeping, and continuing education credits. Some concerns from the industry that must meet new certification requirements are understandable, however the fertilizer certification program in SB 792 was developed purposely to mirror the professional pesticide applicator program in which more than 3,500 of the same businesses are already in compliance. Fertilizer licensing, training, record keeping and continuing education could be easily adopted into an existing pesticide application business with minimal change to the business operation.

A person holding a valid Pennsylvania pesticide applicator certification in a category that would likely provide professional fertilizer applications will be grandfathered, receiving the initial fertilizer certification without having to take and pass an exam. Future fertilizer certification will then follow the same continuing education credit schedule as the applicator's pesticide core credit cycle. Only new applicators, applying after the initial grandfathering phase, must take and pass a fertilizer category exam that will be offered along with the pesticide category exams. Renewal of certification will be based on obtaining four continuing education credits every three years.

To eliminate duplication with the certified *pesticide* applicator certification, there will be no licensing fees for the certified fertilizer applicator. The only license fee associated with the new fertilizer certification program will be the annual business license fee of \$100 regardless of how many certified applicators are employed by the business.

In lieu of maintaining a separate business unit number when becoming a licensed fertilizer application business, current pesticide applicator licensees will be allowed to use their existing business unit numbers when also acting as a licensed commercial fertilizer business. **Newly established "fertilizer only" application businesses will receive a separate identifier.**

An additional question from stakeholders concerned **the department's ability to enforce** the new fertilizer certification program. With similar duties already a part of the inspection staff's responsibility for the pesticide program, the additional surveillance and inspection will be absorbed by the current inspection staff. Inspection of licensed applicator businesses will continue as existing and new businesses incorporate fertilizer certification. The department will provide the public opportunity to report suspected non-licensed fertilizer applicators.

Enhanced label language proposed in section 6814 of SB 792 is recognized by industry on a national level and is compatible with other states' labeling requirements. This will facilitate interstate commerce as more states adopt nationally recognized fertilizer terms and definitions, best practices language, and nutrient restrictions into their respective state laws. Industry will have 18 months to make the necessary changes to the fertilizer product labels. This 18-month allowance will provide enough time for manufacturers to use existing labels/packaging and to absorb the added cost of new printing.

There are several aspects of the bill that address fertilizer use by homeowners: SB 792 has created an education and outreach component in the proposed law to reach the non-professional fertilizer applicator. As the retail agricultural fertilizer industry and agricultural producers are aware, the so-called "4 Rs" of nutrient stewardship have been well received within the agricultural community. Educating homeowners on the same principles of nutrient stewardship embodied within the 4 Rs—using the "Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place"—for fertilizer applications can be a successful approach. With the assistance of retail facilities, turf fertilizer producers and Cooperative Extension, the department will promote these principles.

I want to commend the Senate for passing a bill that captures input received during stakeholder meetings. While the intent of the legislation meets the needs of Pennsylvania, there are still items that must be modified to perfect the language. A critical modification would be the effective dates of the labeling provisions found at section 6814. As currently written, there would be a suspension of all fertilizer labeling requirements for 18 months. The initial intent of the proposal was to have only the *new* provisions to the Fertilizer Act become effective in 18 months

[§6814(G)(3), (a)(4), (G) through (M)] while leaving all current requirements effective immediately.

Another needed change would be to delete paragraph A under section 6813 (Turf Fertilizer Components). This paragraph introduces application rate language, even though application rates are specifically addressed in section 6852 (Application of Fertilizer to Turf). This duplication creates confusion in interpretation. We do not believe any substance is lost by removing 6813 (A)(1), however greater clarity is gained.

A third minor amendment could be considered in section 6832 on applicator certification. Since Right-of-Way companies apply fertilizer when seeding improvement areas around highways, Category 10 – Right of Way and Weeds should be added to the list of pesticide applicator categories that are grandfathered with fertilizer applicator certification.

With any new legislation, the question of program funding inevitably arises. Due to the increased costs for fertilizer outreach, regulation and enforcement, we are seeking an increase in the price of a fertilizer license for manufacturers and guarantors and in the registration fees for specialty fertilizers. This would be the first license and registration fee increase in 34 years. This increase is needed to maintain current operations and implement additional administrative costs associated with the new requirements of the legislation. The anticipated expense of developing and maintaining software for the certification database, developing and maintaining a fertilizer exam, hiring certification and inspection support staff, and creating and promoting the education and outreach for responsible fertilizer use would not be supported under the current fee structure.

I realize the increase of license and registration fees in the proposed legislation appear drastic. Please keep in mind, though, that those fees were last increased in 1984. To prevent steep

rate hikes in the future, a provision has been added to allow fee increases to occur gradually over time when operating expenses no longer meet projected income. The department has proposed language to hold a public meeting to announce a proposal for fee increases when the revenue of the program has not covered the costs associated with administering the program for a period of two years. The Department will publish the meeting notice and basis for the meeting in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and provide a public meeting for comment before any fee increase may be enacted.

The proposed fees are in line with other state's fertilizer programs. For example, we propose raising a fertilizer manufacturer license from \$25 to \$50. Twenty-one states charge \$50.00 or more for that license. Ten states charge from \$75 - \$250 for specialty fertilizer registrations; SB 792 proposes a \$100 registration fee.

Currently, the fertilizer program's annual revenues are slightly more than \$300,000. We anticipate this new fee structure, once enacted, will yield approximately \$1.1 million in revenue, of which \$860,000 will be needed the first year to implement the law. As required by the proposed legislation, the Department will undertake a program of public outreach to educate the public on proper use, application, handling and storage of fertilizer. This will help to correct the misconception that "more fertilizer is better," and this outreach will increase awareness of the importance of proper fertilizer management, not only to minimize costs, but also to reduce runoff and improve water quality.

In keeping with the intent of this proposed law to provide clear regulatory oversight commonwealth-wide, a provision in section 6887 prohibits local regulation of fertilizer that is more restrictive than state law. This proposed pre-emption of local laws and ordinances provides

a universal state-wide standard for fertilizer sales and for commercial applicator business practice. This proposed law will provide local governments with appropriate and science-based nutrient management regulation of fertilizer for the benefit of local water quality.

Lastly, I would like to recognize Penn State University turf grass management researchers who have worked to provide Pennsylvania with sound recommendations on lawn fertilizer rates for many years. The bill's proposed application rate of 0.9 lbs. of total nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. is slightly lower than Penn State's current recommendation of 1.0 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. The intent of the change is to demonstrate a decrease in nitrogen application, but we recognize that this change will require additional research to understand its impact on lawn health. The restriction of phosphorus for turf fertilizer is suggested to mitigate phosphorus in surface water and has been accepted by academia and neighboring state's regulatory fertilizer programs. Turf fertilizer products and applicators are already utilizing these nutrient restrictions for nitrogen and phosphorus due to interstate commerce of fertilizer products. Professional applicators and homeowners will be able to adjust these application rates based on a soil test and site-specific plan, and may use turf fertilizer that is formulated appropriately for proper green-up and for establishing lawn or turf, while protecting their own local water from nutrient run-off.

Chairman Causer, Chairman Pashinski, and members of the committee, again I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the proposed Fertilizer Act in Senate Bill 792. Like you and countless others across the commonwealth, I care about improving water quality in Pennsylvania. By taking a holistic approach to regulating fertilizer, we address the contribution that each sector of Pennsylvania can make in decreasing nutrient run-off. By taking this opportunity to decrease the nutrient load from urban lawn fertilization practices, we

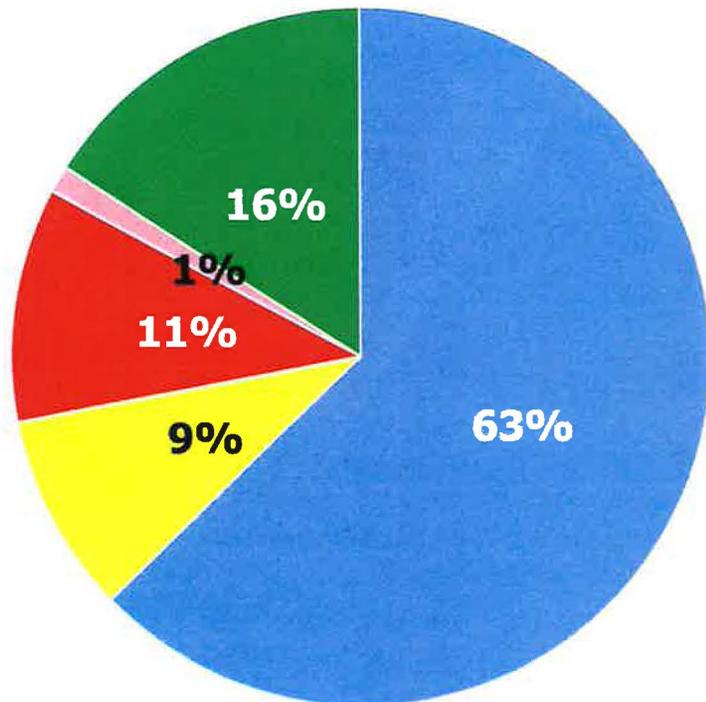
acknowledge our shared responsibility for water quality and help the farmers who have been shouldering this burden for the commonwealth.

Stakeholders – from scientists to manufacturers to industry leaders and consumer advocates – have spent countless hours meeting with my staff in the Bureau of Plant Industry to develop the language you see reflected in SB 792. While I realize the proposed legislation may not be 100% acceptable to any one group, it is vital to the citizens of Pennsylvania that we work together to pass a law that makes sense for Pennsylvania. Having said that, I appreciate the support this bill has received from industry-leading organizations like the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association and PennAg Industries. Furthermore, the bipartisan support the bill received in the Senate, with a 47-3 vote, is a good indication that this bill has struck the right balance for Pennsylvania. I urge your support, as well.

Again, I thank you for your time, and I will be happy to take your questions.

# Pennsylvania Nitrogen Loads (1985 – 2017, Phase 6 )

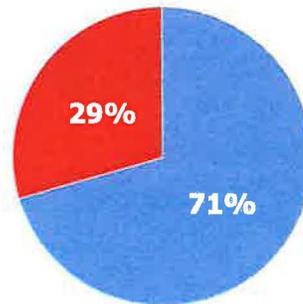
■ Agriculture ■ Developed ■ Wastewater ■ Septic ■ Natural



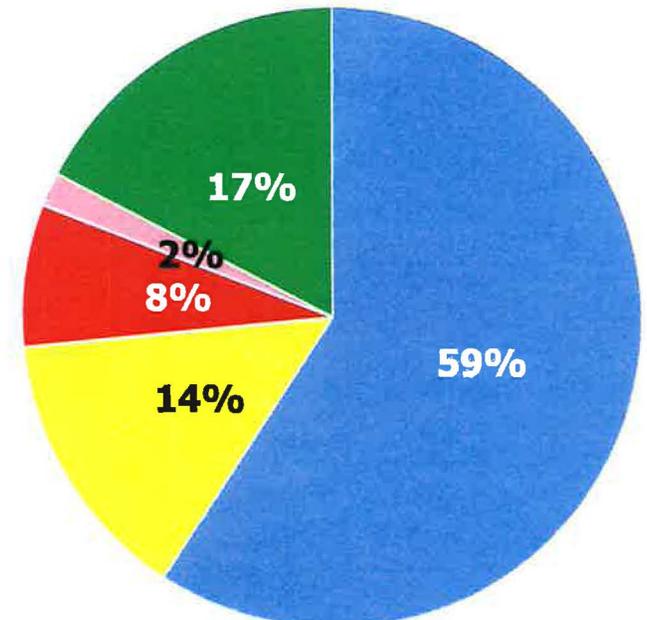
(122.4 M lbs/yr)  
1985



Where did the  
Nitrogen reductions  
come from?



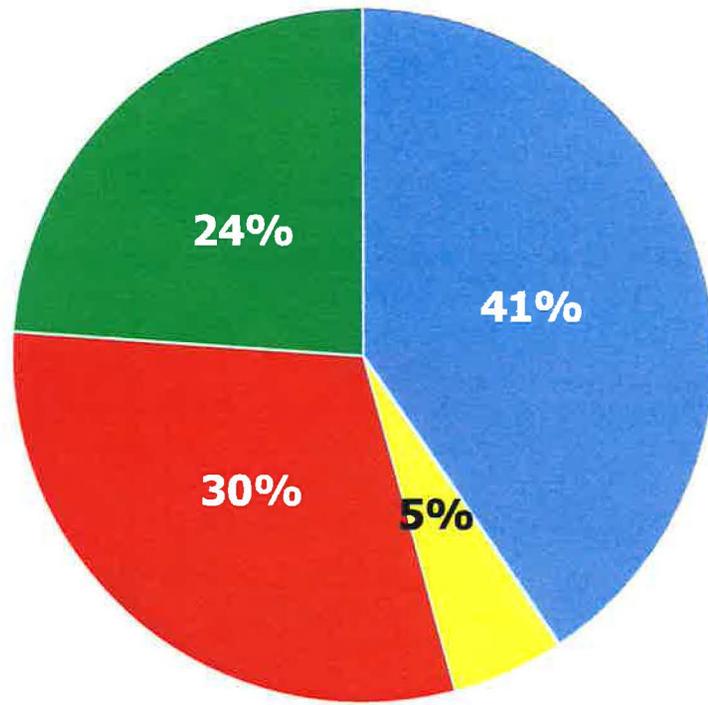
35.4 M lbs/yr REMAINING



(108.5 M lbs/yr)  
2017

# Pennsylvania Phosphorus Loads (1985 – 2017, Phase 6 )

■ Agriculture ■ Developed ■ Wastewater ■ Natural

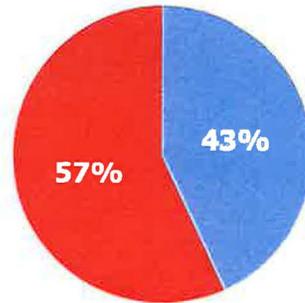


(6.11 M lbs/yr)

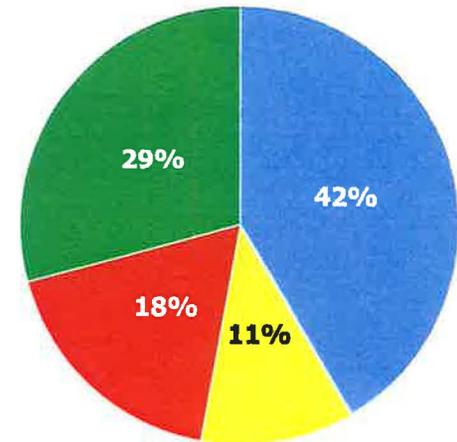
1985



Where did the Phosphorus reductions come from?



0.79 M lbs/yr REMAINING



(3.86 M lbs/yr)

2017



September 6, 2017

Mr. Russell Redding  
Secretary of Agriculture  
Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture  
2301 North Cameron St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Secretary Redding:

In response to a request from the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture, I am writing this letter to address the issue of nitrogen rate restrictions in the latest draft (Aug. 30, 2017) of the Pennsylvania fertilizer bill. The following paragraphs summarize my thoughts on nitrogen fertilizer rates from a research perspective, and personal observations based on 40+ years of working with the turfgrass industry as a practitioner, researcher, and state extension specialist. Over my career at Penn State I have worked extensively with soil amendments, turfgrass fertilizers, as well as turfgrass species and cultivars. I consult regularly with colleagues at Penn State and nutrient specialists from around the country regarding turfgrass fertilizer/nutrition issues.

***Comments on §6752. Application of fertilizer to turf. Application rates.--Except as provided in subsection (c), fertilizer application rates to turf shall: Not exceed 1.0 pound of total nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application.***

As a researcher and extension specialist at Penn State I try to follow the charge of the University to provide research-based information to the public. Although I follow research performed in other regions of the U.S., I rely mostly on studies conducted in Pennsylvania. The majority of research trials conducted at Penn State with lawn fertilizers over the past three decades have dealt with evaluating nitrogen release characteristics, turf quality, and turf health based on 1.0 lb nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> (we occasionally look at higher rates for products that release nitrogen very slowly). We perform research using 1.0 lb nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> because previous research at Penn State has shown that lawn grasses respond well to this rate with respect to growth (which is important in recovery from injury caused by drought, wear, and diseases); density (which aids in weed and disease suppression, as well as slowing runoff from precipitation events); and turf color. The 1.0 lb nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> rate is also useful for making historical comparisons among products and for comparing data from other universities, including nitrogen fate studies that often use the 1.0 lb nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> rate.

The goal of our research is to generate data on turfgrass responses to fertilizer applications under climatic conditions and soils typical of Pennsylvania. These data help practitioners develop

fertilizer programs which should result in good performance of lawn and sports turf, yet minimize excessive growth and environmental contamination. Extension educators (myself included) rely on data from our experiments to develop use guidelines for Penn State publications and soil test reports used by practitioners in the lawn care, landscape, sports turf, and golf course industries.

The 0.9 lb nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> rate limit proposed in earlier drafts of the fertilizer bill is not based on research performed at Penn State. Although I could speculate that the initial turf response from some nitrogen sources applied at 0.9 lb nitrogen would be very similar to 1.0 lb; I'm concerned that the long-term turf response to a fertilizer program involving multiple applications at 0.9 lb over three or four years would be less predictable, especially with slow-release fertilizers (some of which release nitrogen in small increments over a period of several months or more than a year). For professional lawn and sports turf managers, reducing nitrogen rates by 0.1 lb per application could alter turf quality, density, and other aspects of performance over time. I don't really know what the long-term implications of a 0.9 lb nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> rate restriction would be on turf performance, because Penn State has no data on this type of program.

Because many Pennsylvania soils tend to contain high amounts of clay and have marginal infiltration characteristics, our major nitrogen loss concern is from runoff. Penn State researchers conducted a series of runoff studies during the 1980s and early 1990's that demonstrated a dense stand of turf slows runoff and allows greater infiltration with minimal nitrogen losses in most cases. The purpose of these studies was to identify conditions conducive to fertilizer runoff, and not to distinguish very small differences in nitrogen rates. To my knowledge, no one in our program (or any other program in the U.S. that I'm aware of) has ever set up a field-based research project to determine if there is a significant difference in nitrogen runoff, leaching, or volatilization between 0.9 vs 1.0 lb nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Typically, a researcher would use a wider range of rates if they were looking for differences due to the variability encountered in this type of research.

***Comments on §6713. Turf Fertilizer Components: General rule.-- Fertilizer labeled for turf that is distributed to end users in this Commonwealth shall consist of at least 20% enhanced efficiency nitrogen of the total nitrogen or that standard which is published in the current official publication of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials.***

Most lawn care applicators are currently using fertilizer products with 20% or more of enhanced-efficiency nitrogen. The exception may be some starter fertilizers, where quick release of nitrogen is important in fast turf establishment and soil stabilization. Also, golf course superintendents frequently use ammonium sulfate or urea (not enhanced-efficiency fertilizers) at very low rates (0.1 to 0.2 lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>) every couple of weeks during the summer to supply nitrogen to putting greens and to acidify putting green soils for suppression of certain diseases. Superintendents refer to this practice as "spoon feeding" and our research shows it has important disease suppression and pH management advantages. I view this as an environmentally responsible practice, as readily available nitrogen applied at these very low rates has negligible runoff or leaching implications. Rather than prohibiting products containing solely readily available nitrogen, perhaps an alternative can be to simply limit applications to 0.7 lb

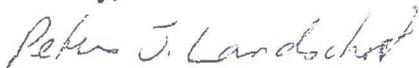
nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>. After all, there is an allowance for 0.7 lb readily available nitrogen in the application rate section of the bill (section §6752). Why does this version of the bill allow application of up to 0.7 lb of readily available nitrogen, yet ban all readily available nitrogen products even if they are applied at rates much less than the 0.7 lb limit?

***Comments on §6752. Application of fertilizer to turf. Application rates.--Except as provided in subsection (c), fertilizer application rates to turf shall: (1) Not exceed 0.7 pounds of readily available nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application.***

Based on our research, I see little argument against the 0.7 lb nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> rate limit of readily available nitrogen. Other than starter fertilizers, few turf fertilizer products on the professional lawn care market contain more than 70% readily available nitrogen. There could be some small landscape companies currently using straight urea at rates higher than 0.7 lb nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>, but I have not come across any of these outfits in my travels. There are several published studies from other regions of the country that show certain slow-release fertilizers are less likely to leach than readily available sources when applied at rates higher than 0.7 lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> and where conditions are conducive to nitrogen leaching (sandy soils, excessive precipitation, etc.).

I apologize for the lengthy response to your request, but I wanted to provide some background on Penn State's turfgrass fertilizer research and why I feel the 1.0 lb nitrogen/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> rate specified in the current version of the bill is more science-based than the 0.9 lb rate. Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Landschoot

Prof. Turfgrass Science and Director of Graduate Studies in Agronomy

## Krak, Natalie

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**From:** Strathmeyer, Fred  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 7, 2018 3:30 PM  
**To:** O'Donnell, Kelly; Hendrickson, Jonathan; Redding, Russell; Smith, Michael (AGR)  
**Subject:** FW: Credit for Fertilizer Legislation in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Model

Russell – I left a message for Matt earlier today and asked for a consolidation of the emails. This is his response, I hope this is what you are looking for. Very timely for our meeting with PLNA tomorrow.

See you tomorrow.

Fred

**Fred R. Strathmeyer, Jr.**  
Deputy Secretary for Plant Industry and Consumer Protection  
Department of Agriculture | Executive Office  
2301 N. Cameron St., | Harrisburg PA 17110  
Phone: 717.214.3758 | Fax: 717.705.8402  
[www.agriculture.state.pa.us](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us)

**From:** Matt Johnston [mailto:mjohnston@chesapeakebay.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2018 3:21 PM  
**To:** Redding, Russell <rredding@pa.gov>  
**Cc:** Strathmeyer, Fred <fstrathmey@pa.gov>  
**Subject:** Credit for Fertilizer Legislation in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Model

Honorable Secretary Redding,

Over the past few weeks I have had a number of conversations with you and your staff regarding how the proposed fertilizer legislation will translate to credit for nutrient reductions from Pennsylvania in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's Watershed Model. To be clear, the proposed legislation would translate into credit in the following two ways:

First, Pennsylvania could include the legislation as part of its Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. Doing so would allow Pennsylvania to *plan* for modeled nitrogen and phosphorus pollution reductions from all pervious acres within Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Secondly, Pennsylvania would be expected to provide fertilizer sales information through 2025 to verify that reductions in nitrogen and phosphorus sales took place, as *planned for* in the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. Any verified reductions in sales would then translate into *realized*, modeled nitrogen and phosphorus pollution reductions from all pervious acres within Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Thank you for reaching out to the Chesapeake Bay Program Office on this matter, and please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

**Matthew E. Johnston**  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Chesapeake Bay Program Office



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March 23, 2018

The Honorable Russell Redding  
Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Russell:

After careful consideration, the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association has decided to support SB 792, the fertilizer bill, with two caveats:

- The current bill does not specify whether the number required on vehicles of a licensed fertilizer application business can be satisfied by a business's current BU#. We would like your assurance that PDA will allow licensed fertilizer application businesses to use their current BU# in lieu of the fertilizer number when they become a licensed fertilizer application business.
- In a letter to you of March 7, 2018 Matthew E. Johnston, Senior Policy Analyst, Chesapeake Bay Program Office conveyed that if Pennsylvania were to receive credit for the legislation that it be included in Pennsylvania's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. We would appreciate your working with Secretary McDonnell to see that SB 792, if it passes, is included in Pennsylvania's Phase III WIP.

Although the SB 792 will impose implementation costs on the landscape and nursery industry, we want to recognize and thank you and your staff for the diligent work with us to develop a bill that creates the minimum disruption and cost to the industry.

Sincerely,

Andy Ernst, Chairman of the Board  
Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association



May 2, 2018

Andy Ernst, Chairman of the Board  
Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association  
1707 South Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17104-3100

Dear Mr. Ernst,

Thank you for your recent letter expressing the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association's position regarding Senate Bill 792. Both the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) appreciate PLNA's careful consideration and decision to support the bill. You indicated two caveats regarding your support, both of which we seek to address here.

In your letter, you note SB 792 "does not specify whether the number required on vehicles of a licensed fertilizer application business can be satisfied by a business's current BU#." Further, you ask for the Department of Agriculture's assurance "that PDA will allow licensed fertilizer application businesses to use their current BU# in lieu of the fertilizer number when they become a licensed fertilizer application business."

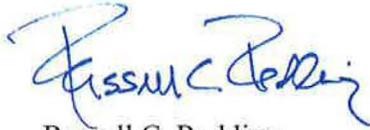
On this point, following passage of SB 792, PDA will allow current pesticide applicator licensees to use their existing business unit numbers when also acting as a licensed commercial fertilizer business. Newly established "fertilizer only" application businesses will receive a separate identifier.

Second, your letter referenced the March 7, 2018 correspondence of Mr. Matthew Johnston, Senior Policy Analyst, Chesapeake Bay Program Office, who wrote, "if Pennsylvania were to receive credit for the legislation that it could be included in Pennsylvania's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. We would appreciate your working with Secretary McDonnell to see that SB 792, if it passes, is included in Pennsylvania's Phase III WIP."

PDA and DEP will continue to work together and with other partners to develop Phase 3 of Pennsylvania's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). Collaboration and coordination with stakeholders is essential to the development and success of the Phase 3 plan. Should SB 792 be enacted, our two agencies commit to including the provisions of the bill in the final WIP.

We hope that this response sufficiently answers your concerns and provides the assurance PLNA requires to continue supporting SB 792. We appreciate your continued engagement in advancing this legislation, and we thank you for your support of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry and the responsible stewardship of our environmental resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russell C. Redding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Russell C. Redding  
Secretary of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick McDonnell". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most prominent.

Patrick McDonnell  
Secretary of Environmental Protection