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Date: August 25, 1995
Site: Pocono Manor Inn
Route 314
Pocono Manor, PA 18349
Time: 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Testimony for the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
Hearings on the House of Representatives

My name is Robert Uguccioni. I am the Executive Director of the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau, Inc., the official Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Tourist Promotion Agency for the Pocono Mountain area.

We thank the committee for the opportunity to discuss Wetlands issues and Legislation. We know the committee realizes that our field is not in the regulatory area or in the area of technical expertise on Wetlands.

The purpose of our presentation today is to express our support for the preservation of Wetlands in the Pocono Mountain region. We have been educated by the Legislature, members of this committee, and the Conservation and Environmental community of the importance of Wetlands to our area. The excellent job that the Monroe County Conservation District is doing is one of the main reason we have this level of interest in Wetland preservation.

The Pocono Mountain area is a tourist area, and more and more we are focusing on promotions and advertising to showcase the natural resources we have in great abundance. People come to the Pocono Mountains from all over the United States to enjoy those products and we need to continue to preserve them for our industry's survival. The tourism industry in the Pocono Mountains generates over a billion dollars in gross revenue a year; we employ over 18,000 people and it is indeed the single largest industry in this part of Pennsylvania.

Our support for environmental issues is known and in particular the interest we have shown in Wetlands has been documented.



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EMBRACING 80% OF PENNSYLVANIA'S RESORT FACILITIES



One of the problems that people continue to bring to our attention is the delay in the process in getting Wetlands information, etc. We would hope the proposed Legislation, the new DEP permit and policy addresses the costly delays that small and large businesses have in acquiring the proper Wetland permits.

The announcement of a new Wetland general permit procedure seems to us to eliminate additional paperwork that will hopefully help in this area.

Governor Thomas Ridge recently commented that streamlining procedures and reducing paperwork saves time and money for both consumers and the Government, and we agree.

We want to thank you very much for allowing us to be here and that concludes our testimony.