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PA. 16373
ADAMS

August 29, 1995

: Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Members
Robert Reber, Jr., Majority Chairman

Good Morning Gentlemen;

As an employee of a manufacturer of high grade Pennsylvania hardwoods, I welcomed the opportunity of offering comment to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on Wetlands Issues and Legislation.

We agree that wetlands play an integral role in maintaining the quality of life, serve important natural resource functions and by utilizing normal silvicultural activities, will enhance the wetland area. House Bill 0 ~~XXXXXX~~ affords the timber industry the capability, this without time consuming permitting in Class B & C wetlands. We also agree that in a Class A wetland, our main problem is access through the area. Under (b) termination, number (2) it states "If the wetland under application are classified as Type A, the permit shall be denied. With silviculture being an Exception from permits, it is unclear if we are allowed in a Type A wetland. Will GPB permit, that is in existence, allow the industry access to timber through a wetland with a defined bed and bank at its narrowest point, or is access denied? With this legislation, will this permit allow access? If a Type A Wetland is delineated a EV or HQ is access denied?

Under section 261, paragraph 1, addressing construction of roads, it states that roads are constructed and maintained in accordance with best management practices to assure that flow and circulation patterns and chemical and biological characteristics of the waters are not impaired, that the reach of waters is not reduced and that adverse effect on aquatic environment will be otherwise minimized. For example, Mr Farmer has a Type "A" Wetland on his property that divides his property in two with timber on both sides. He wants to sell his timber, and offers Hickman Lumber Company the opportunity to purchase said timber. Do we need a permit to cross the Type "A" Wetland? We will encroach the wetland with a skid road and place a temporary bridge to cross the defined inflow or outflow to access the timber . Does Hickman Lumber Company need a permit to cross the inflow or outflow? Other than this wetland issue, the GRS permit is used to cross streams with a defined bed and bank. Will this permit be necessary? Will the PNDI need to be addressed? This example will occur in the Commonwealth. How are our foresters to proceed with the purchase of timber using this example?

Notwithstanding the above situation, you have created a workable solution by the introduction of ^{THIS} legislation with the "Citizens of the Commonwealth" in mind.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this meeting today and I commend you for the work you have done.

