

11 September, 2019

To: Senator Judy Ward
Nick Troutman

Subject: MS4 stormwater fees and their effect

I fully support a clean Chesapeake Bay and don't mind my contribution, however, I do have several concerns as follows:

1). I am an advocate of promoting sustainable energy but am concerned that solar power generation projects may be impacted by the MS4 fees. I have spoken with PA DEP concerning the guidance for determining if a ground mounted solar panel is considered to be pervious or impervious. It is discretionary at this point with no policy guidance to assist local governments to make that determination. If a grounded mounted solar generation farm, say 100 acres, were to be determined impervious, it would be subject to the MS4 fees. This would be in direct conflict with PA's sustainable energy initiatives and negatively impact these projects. Possibly making the project unaffordable, or at least affect the business model driving costs much higher.

PA DEP should be given direction to create this policy for determining the effect that a solar panel has with regard to storm water and make it less contentious for local governments to assist residents and businesses to move forward with these projects.

2) The MS4 fees will negatively impact the cost of living for the residents of Antrim Township, to include senior citizens living on fixed incomes. The MS4 fees levied on businesses and schools will merely be passed on to consumers and residents. Grocery stores, restaurants, etc. will have to pay the MS4 fees but will just pass that cost on to consumers by raising prices to offset those fees.

The school district will also be impacted by the MS4 fees. They will be forced to add those fees on to the property taxes of the residents of Antrim Township. I have already heard discussions by local residents that living in Antrim Township is becoming unaffordable, and they are discussing moving there families to avoid these costs.

David and Connie Slye,
Concerned Antrim Township citizens