



Labor & Management • Building Our Region's Success



October 14, 2022

Testimony of Jeff Nobers, Executive Director Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh Works Together to the PA Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee and the PA Senate Labor & Industry Committee on “The Importance of Pennsylvania Waterways to Energy and Economic Development”

CHAIRMAN YAW, CHAIRWOMAN BARTOLOTTA, CHAIRWOMAN COMITTA,
CHAIRWOMAN TARTAGLIONE AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCES & ENERGY COMMITTEE AND SENATE LABOR & INDUSTRY
COMMITTEE. GOOD MORNING.

MY NAME IS JEFF NOBERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BUILDER’S GUILD OF
QWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, A LABOR MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
COMPRISED OF CONSTRUCTION TRADE UNIONS AND CONTRACTOR
ASSOCIATIONS AND OF PITTSBURGH WORKS TOGETHER, A BUSINESS-LABOR-
WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS
YOU THIS MORNING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RIVER SYSTEM FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AS WE HAVE HEARD FROM MARY ANN BUCCI OUR
RIVER SYSTEM IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF OUR ABILITY TO RETAIN AND

EXPAND EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS ATTRACT NEW ENTITIES TO OUR REGION AND STATE.

LIKE OUR ENERGY RESOURCES WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE NETWORK OF LAKES, TRIBUTARIES AND RIVERS THROUGHOUT OUR STATE. WHICH OFFER NOT ONLY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND JOBS, BUT UNPARALLELED RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

THE BUILDER'S GUILD AND PITTSBURGH WORKS TOGETHER MEMBERS COMPRISE SOME 150,000 MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES. THESE RUN THE GAMUT FROM BACK-OFFICE SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS TO ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, ACCOUNTANTS, HUMAN RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS, MARKETING PROFESSIONALS AND NEARLY 100,000 MEMBERS OF OUR WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSTRUCTION TRADES AND UNITED STEELWORKERS.

AS WE ARE SEEING IN OUR WESTERN STATES – LACK OF WATER IS HAVING DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES ECONOMICALLY, SOCIALLY AND HEALTH WISE. PENNSYLVANIA IS A 'WATER RICH STATE' WITH SURFACE WATER RESOURCES OF MORE THAN 83,000 MILES OF STREAMS AND RIVERS AND MORE THAN 4,000 LAKES, RESERVOIRS AND PONDS AS WELL AS 120 MILES OF COASTAL WATER – NEARLY 2.5 TRILLION GALLONS OF WATER. HERE IN SOUTHWESTERN

PENNSYLVANIA THE PORT OF PITTSBURGH COMMISSION OVERSEES ROUGHLY 200 MILES OF NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS.

INDUSTRIES AS VARIED AS ENERGY, MANUFACTURING, RECREATION, AGRICULTURE, DESTINATION TOURISM AND MANY OTHERS DEPEND DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ON OUR RIVERS AND WATER RESOURCES.

WE CANNOT TAKE THIS NATURAL RESOURCE FOR GRANTED. WE BELIEVE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP BALANCED WITH THE REALITIES OF THE RELIANCE INDUSTRIES HAVE ON OUR RIVERWAYS, LAKES, STREAMS AND GROUNDWATER. BY EMPLOYING SMART AND EFFICIENT REGULATORY PROGRAMS ON ALL INDUSTRIES AND ENTITIES THAT USE OUR WATERWAYS AND INVESTING WISELY AND SUFFICIENTLY IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS NEEDED TO BEST USE THIS GREAT RESOURCE WE BELIEVE THIS BALANCE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

OUR MEMBER COMPANIES, AND ESPECIALLY OUR SKILLED AND DEDICATED TRADES AND MANUFACTURING MEMBERS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE AND CHALLENGES OF PROTECTING THIS GREAT RESOURCE.