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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

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JODY L. HOLTON, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 6, 2018

The Honorable Daryl D. Metcalfe
Chairman – State Government Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
144 Main Capitol Building
P. O. Box 202012
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Metcalfe and Committee Members:

I am writing as the Chief of Environmental Planning, Montgomery County Planning Commission on behalf of that agency, which operates under the supervision of the Montgomery County Commissioners, and whose goal is to maintain and improve Montgomery County's quality of life by promoting sound planning, strengthening the transportation network, supporting healthy and prosperous communities, and working to create vibrant places and protect natural and historic resources.

The reason for this letter is the ongoing discussion on the topic of “State Government Regulations, Burdens, Abuses, and Legislative Oversight”. We understand a public hearing on this topic has been scheduled for June 11, 2018, and we request the opportunity to provide testimony at that hearing. Our testimony is provided in this letter, so that it may be made part of the official record of testimony, should we be unable to testify in person.

Montgomery County is located within the Delaware River Basin, and within the Groundwater Protection Area (GPA) designated by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). As you are aware, the DRBC oversees groundwater resources within the basin, and in particular the GPA. Montgomery County residents and businesses rely on over 100 million gallons of water per day, provided by various water purveyors. Based on permits, just under half of this water provided could come from groundwater sources, which underscores the importance of the water resource planning and regulation activities of the DRBC. The DRBC has been effectively working for the protection of the aquifers serving the county for many years, while maintaining a fair and open regulatory process for purveyors to follow. A watershed-based agency with regulatory authority is the most logical and effective scenario for management of water resources in the Delaware River Basin. The DRBC has been such an agency since the early 1960s. We at MCPC have long felt that the DRBC’s approach to water resource regulation is appropriate and effective.

The Montgomery County Planning Commission has worked with the DRBC on large and small projects over the years, most recently a prototype Critical Area Resource Plan/Special Areas Protection Plan (CARP/SAMP) for the Upper Wissahickon Watershed. The CARP/SAMP implements the State Water Resources Plan, and provides an example for municipalities to follow in providing groundwater resource protection.

We have always recognized the DRBC to be fair, conscientious, and consistent in the application of the regulations within its responsibility. Our knowledge of their operations is based on direct interaction with the commission and its staff through monthly meetings and water resource-related projects. We wish to testify that the continued presence and operation of the DRBC is of vital importance to the protection of water resources in Montgomery County. We support the DRBC and urge the State Government Committee and the PA Legislators to continue to provide full support, financial and otherwise, to the DRBC.

We would be happy to discuss this matter with you further, should that be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Shaw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "S".

Drew Shaw, AICP
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