

Testimony on S 260 - An Act relating to funding the cleanup of State waters

Good afternoon,

My wife and I have owned a camp on Lake Carmi since 1991, and we have experienced the steady deterioration of the lake's water quality over that time from drinkable water to unhealthy and unsafe water.

There appears to be some inconsistencies in some of the wording of the Act, and I would like to address these.

The following two statements are consistent with the intent of the Act as stated in it's title, specifically "the cleanup".

On page 25, in 4810a (a), the language directs the Sec'y of Ag "to amend by rule the required agricultural practices in order to improve water quality in the State ....."

On page 27 under Sec. 9- The Lake Carmi Pilot Project (a) (2) says "A water quality remediation plan shall. . . . reduce the export or runoff of nutrients . . . . "

The next two statements seem inconsistent with the Act's intent.

On page 28, section (3)B - " a summary of practices that an owner or operator of farmland has implemented in the last year in order to prevent an increase of phosphorus loads from the farmland". I would propose that the underlined wording be changed to reduce the. This is one goal of the Act.

On page 28, section (c) Best management practices. This section appears to say that if phosphorus loads to the farmland do not increase, the BMP's don't apply. In my opinion, we need to be clear that if there is no reduction in phosphorus loads, the BMP's shall apply. A small change in the wording of section (c) would accomplish this. Replace the words "indicates increasing phosphorus loads" to "does not indicate decreasing phosphorus loads".

My wife and I support this Act, and having attended several meetings, have much admiration for the work your committee, and other committees have done to advance this vital Clean Water legislation. We thank you very much.

I'm happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

Ernie Englehardt