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Senate of Pennsylvania

SENATOR
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30TH DISTRICT

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January 31, 2019

Miss Avis Kennedy
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Raystown Lake Master Plan
6145 Seven Points Road
Hesston, PA 16647

Re: Raystown Lake Master Plan Update

Dear Miss Kennedy:

As the newly-elected State Senator for Pennsylvania's 30th District, I am submitting this letter of comment on the Raystown Lake Master Plan Revision. The 30th District is comprised of Blair and Fulton Counties and portions of Cumberland, Franklin and Huntingdon Counties, including Raystown Lake and many of its surrounding municipalities. The largest lake that is entirely within Pennsylvania, Raystown Lake is referred to as the "crown jewel" of the state. Originally constructed as a hydroelectric project, the lake has become one of the most popular outdoor recreation locations, drawing approximately two million visitors per year.

The significant impact of tourism on the economy of Huntingdon County and The Alleghenies Region is detailed in the *Alleghenies Ahead Regional Comprehensive Plan* adopted in 2018. The plan cites Raystown Lake is as a major economic driver and confirms that the region's natural assets and recreational amenities play an increasingly vital role in attracting investment by contributing to the quality of life to attract businesses, residents, and visitors. Using an extensive public involvement process to gather input, this plan identified support for land use changes and investment that will allow for positive improvements for both residents and visitors.

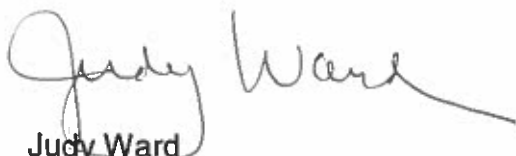
I understand that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE-Baltimore) is currently updating the Raystown Lake Master Plan, which will prescribe an overall land use management plan, resource objectives, and associated design and management concepts for the lake. This plan is vitally important to the region since it will govern the way the land is managed and will guide consistent, responsible decision-making for the next 15-25 years.

As a result, I support the rezoning of the Hawn's Bridge Peninsula at the northeastern shore of Raystown Lake for high-density recreation to allow expanded public access to the water from that side of the lake. This rezoning and issuance of a concession lease would allow public-private cooperation and would open the door to the development of a world-class resort at Raystown Lake to provide increased recreational opportunities at the lake, particularly in Union and Juniata Townships, which are within the state's 30th Senatorial District.

I support the Terrace Mountain Resort and Hawn's Bridge Recreation Area proposals because these developments will add recreational amenities while having a low environmental impact to preserve the natural environment that makes the area unique. As result of this development, the area will benefit from \$100 million in private investment, the creation of approximately 250-300 full-time jobs, and generation of significant tax revenue, plus the additional benefits to local businesses from visitor spending.

It is important that USACE reclassify the Hawn's Bridge Peninsula at the northeastern shore of Raystown Lake for high-density recreation to enable the Terrace Mountain Resort and Hawn's Bridge Recreation Area Projects to move forward. They offer a tremendous opportunity for Huntingdon County and the region. I support these efforts to enhance recreational opportunities at the lake, resulting in significant economic benefits while showcasing our natural resources and protecting the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Judy Ward", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Judy Ward
State Senator, 30th District

cc: Col. John T. Litz, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
Huntingdon County Commissioners
Huntingdon County Business & Industry (HCBI)