

TALKING POINTS:

Senate Bill No. 255 (SB 255): Authorizing Department of Environmental Protection promulgate legislative rule relating to antidegradation implementation procedures

The Senate Natural Resources Committee recently sent SB 255 into a subcommittee for further review. The rule recommends adopting the state's antidegradation implementation procedures (60 CSR 5)—which includes the Tier 2.5 list.

Tell committee members to maintain SB 255 as it is—providing Tier 2.5 protection for 309 of the state's healthiest waters. The state's antidegradation procedures:

- Protect 309 of the state's most ecologically and economically valuable waterways as Tier 2.5—a designation that includes waters supporting wild trout populations, flowing through our state parks and national forests, or those having other unique scenic, recreational, or ecological values.
- Protect the state's water resources and related economics throughout future development in the state.
- Protect the ecological and economical benefits of having clean water in the future—such as natural resource tourism, clean drinking water supplies, and responsible waterfront development.
- Are Clean Water Act components requiring states to protect high quality waters and not allow already polluted streams to get more polluted. Each “tier” offers a different level of protection, with Tier 3 providing the most protection from pollution.
- Protect the “Wild and Wonderful” legacy of West Virginia by providing clean water and outstanding opportunities for future generations.
- Include many popular streams such as: the Blackwater River in Tucker County; Cranberry, Williams, and Elk rivers in Webster and Pocahontas counties; Seneca Creek in Pendleton County; Loop Creek in Fayette County; and Elkhorn Creek in McDowell County.

PLEASE CONTACT members of the Senate Natural Resources subcommittee **TODAY!**

(PLEASE CONTACT SENATOR BARNES FIRST—We need his support!)

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