**[Your Name]**

**[Your Address]**

**[City, State, ZIP Code]**

**[Date]**

[Representative's Name]

[Pennsylvania House of Representatives]

[Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

**Appeal for Protection of High-Value Conservation Land to Preserve Water Quality in [Your Watershed Name] within the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor**

Dear Representative [Representative's Last Name],

 [*Enter a personal statement including your Name, where you live, and why you care about this issue- Example: My name is Jane Doe and I live at 2750 Hugh Moore Park Road in Easton within your \_\_ legislative district. The Lehigh River is critical resource in our community and I am writing you to highlight the urgent need to protect this resource through strategic land use planning].*

The Lehigh River, flowing out of the Appalachian Mountains and through the densely populated Lehigh Valley region, is the “backyard river” for half a million people, and the keystone to Northeastern Pennsylvania’s outdoor recreation industry. However, roughly 20% of the stream miles in its watershed are polluted. The primary source of degradation is stormwater runoff. Poorly managed and overwhelming stormwater runoff from developed land increases the amount of soil and sediment found in our creeks, streams, and rivers. This sediment drives up the risk of flooding by filling storm drains, destroying habitat for important aquatic species like trout, and increasing the cost to treat drinking water.

Conserving woodland areas helps mitigate environmental stressors by reducing stormwater runoff, filtering groundwater recharge, controlling erosion and sedimentation, moderating local microclimates, and purifying the air.

The largest concentrations of woodlands are found along the mountain ranges and hillsides adjacent to major stream and river corridors, such as those found here in the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. Woodlands are commonly found on other environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes and floodplains, adding to their significance and need for protection. Communities can mitigate the loss of the region’s woodland resources with land development and site design ordinances or policies.

*I urge you to please support [reach out to DLNHC at* *info@delawareandlehigh.org* *for a list of conservation initiative related to the preservation of water quality or insert a project need you are aware of]. With your support,*

 Thank you for considering my appeal. Your commitment to serving our community and your dedication to preserving its beauty will not go unnoticed or go to waste.

With appreciation,

[Your Name]