Sky Fogal's Planned Remarks.

Hello everyone, thank you for coming and for holding this hearing on this incredibly important issue.

My father founded Pocono Whitewater in 1977, 44 years ago. We are still a family owned and operated business with 226 employees. The fees paid by our rafting company and our 3 competitors are the reason that Lehigh Gorge State Park is one of the only profitable state parks in the whole system.

The key to our success is the current flow management plan at Francis E Walter Dam. This plan specifically lists downstream recreation as a project purpose, and provides us with weekend summer dam releases. Take away those releases and you would gut over 75% of our revenue and guests. That's 150 jobs that are directly related to downstream recreation and we are just one of four rafting companies. Not to mention the impact on the local economy as a whole.

In 2019 Pocono Whitewater accounted for 90,174 guests.   When those people finished their river trips they filled their gas tanks, had meals at local restaurants, shopped at local stores, and stayed in local hotels, resorts, and campgrounds.

That is why it is so important that the current flow management plan be used as a base line and that we get a pledge and written guarantee that downstream recreation will not just be a consideration at the end of this study, but that a do no harm, hard and fast, constraint be applied to all options that are going to be studied.

While the US Army Corp runs the dam, I am a firm believer that the water behind it is part of Pennsylvanian's heritage. I agree in the philosophy of helping your neighbor, but we cannot allow the water demands of New York City to take precedence over the well-being of small-town Pennsylvania residents. New York City should repair it's leaky water infrastructure and utilize New York State's ample water resources instead of taking control of our water.   I ask all of you for your help in protecting Pennsylvania's water rights and small towns' livelihoods.

Thank you and I look forward to your questions.