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**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

Sen. Richard Devlin, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Chair

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Re: SB 5518 Department of Environmental Quality

Senator Frederick: “SB 5518 is the budget bill for the Department of Environmental Quality. The Department of Environmental Quality administers the state’s laws regulating air, water, and land pollution. The Department manages the federally delegated Clean Air and Clean Water programs, and administers state environmental programs in the areas of solid waste management, recycling, groundwater protection, and environmental cleanup.

The recommended budget for the Department is \$45 million General Fund, \$4.7 million Measure 76 Lottery Funds, \$172.9 million Other Funds, \$131.7 million of Nonlimited Other Funds and \$29.1 million Federal Funds.

The total funds budget is 9% higher than the 2015-17 legislatively approved budget level. The General Fund budget is 18% higher than 2015-17 levels. General Fund was added for: air quality monitoring equipment and positions; low interest loans to replace failing septic systems; the wood smoke reduction program; and planning for an information technology replacement project. A total of 16 long term vacant positions are eliminated for a total savings of \$2 million.

Your Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5518 be amended by the –2 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”