

Good morning,

I am Dennis Bunnell, a lifelong resident of Jessup Township, Susquehanna County. I farm 95 acres of land on my beef cattle operation and have firsthand experience with stream flooding on my farm on a regular basis. I would like to thank the Farm Bureau for inviting me to speak today.

I am currently serving my 43rd year as Township Supervisor. The population of Jessup Township is less than 500.

My job as an elected supervisor is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of my Township residents.

I find it difficult to do my job with my hands tied behind my back.

I say this because, I have repeatedly contacted Representatives, Congressmen, Soil Conservation Officials, other County Officials, and the Army Corps of Engineers, asking for help to clean the streams running through our Township.

Often the response to me has been that we need to protect the Chesapeake Bay. Of course this is important, but; how does not doing anything with the streams protect the Bay? How do the millions of TONS of top soil, trees, homes and business washing to the Chesapeake Bay protect it? We have people in our Township that live in fear when there is a forecast of heavy rain. Streams are allowed to meander wherever and some of our residents wonder when their home will be the next to float away.

With the 2006 flood, we had 9 residents stranded. One woman was washed downstream ½ mile (in the dark) after leaving her car that had stalled crossing a bridge, (the creek water was not under the bridge, but on the roadway.) She was rescued after 3 hours clinging to a tree and having her clothes ripped off by the raging water. We thank God that all 9 residents were rescued by emergency personal, neighbors, and Township Officials and their family members.

This situation is getting worse every year that the streams are allowed to go their merry way. We have endured three major floods, each time receiving government money to repair bridges and roads. This makes no sense! Money should be spent cleaning the streams, keeping the water within the stream bank. This would save lives, homes, businesses, farmland, crops and money.

The last time the streams were cleaned in Jessup Township was 1973, after the Agnes flood by the Army Corps of Engineers. Before the 1960's landowners were allowed to clean the stream flowing through their property. Now, if the landowner can get a permit and can afford the time and money to clean the stream, he is simply throwing money away. The landowner upstream or downstream has not spent the time or money and eventually flooding will happen again.

Please Senator Yaw, we covet your help.