



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
UPPER OXFORD TOWNSHIP
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December 17, 2024

Honorable Josh Shapiro
Governor of Pennsylvania
501 North 3rd Street
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro:

Upper Oxford Township's Board of Supervisors joins the Oxford Regional Planning Committee, the Chester County Commissioners, the Townships of Lower Oxford, Elk, East Nottingham, Franklin and London Britain, so far, in respectfully asking that what is currently being called the Big Elk Creek State Park be returned in management, if not in name, to what it originally publicly purchased as, namely a preserve.

We acknowledge that we are not adjacent to the Big Elk Creek lands but we are part of the region and share EMS and fire service providers with those who are adjacent. We are sure you are aware of the escalating cost of these services due to the loss of local hospitals, lack of volunteers and the consequent necessity of hiring professional, full-time responders to ensure service. In the last two years those costs have risen from 12.7% of our budget to 19.3% and we expect more increases even without factoring in the effects of the proposed development of the Big Elk Creek lands.

While we support the DCNR's empanelment of an advisory group, we recognize that it is only "for now", to quote the Secretary of DCNR, and will require the residents of the area to be constantly vigilant indefinitely for either the current Secretary to resurrect the development plans or for a future Secretary to do so. You alone have the authority to finally and completely return the use and management of those lands to a preserve use and status and we request this of you.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Scott A. Rugen
Scott A. Rugen, Chairman

Howard S. Reyburn
Howard Reyburn, Vice-Chairman

Charles Fleischmann
Charles Fleischmann, Member