

ELK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
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November 4, 2024

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PO Box 8767,  
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To: Josh Shapiro & Cindy Adams Dunn

Elk Township's Board of Supervisors opposes any plans to equip the Big Elk Creek State Park with a campground, RV facilities, any overnight occupancy buildings or facilities, or entertainment facilities that have been included in previous presentations from DCNR. While requisite public toilets and maintenance and office structures such as currently at the White Clay Creek Preserve are acceptable, extensive construction is not.

It is obvious to all who have seen and heard DCNR presentations that increased traffic; noise; light pollution; road damage; litter and demands on fire, police, and ambulance services will result from transforming this low impact Preserve into a State Park. Elk Township is not alone in these concerns. Each local Township touched by this proposed State Park has realized the damage and demands DCNR's plans will cause. Those concerns have been very clearly communicated to DCNR so there can be no doubt of our commitment to stop the damage to our communities.

Our small township (1760 residents, many of them Amish) has a small operating budget that cannot accommodate the increased demands on our roads and public services that the proposed State Park would create. Many of our residents already struggle to meet their tax obligations. Every public service our township utilizes - especially the requisite Fire Departments and Ambulance Services - is already requesting (in some cases, demanding) increased funding from us. The Board of Supervisors constantly tries to contain costs to avoid tax increases that would cause hardship to many of our residents. The strain on our community from the proposed State Park would make it impossible for us to prevent increased costs from increasing our budget and taxes. The State Police have also warned of the need for increased coverage and resulting costs due to increased traffic from more cars and recreation vehicles.

At this point, DCNR should be asking what it is we want. The answer is that we want what was intended to be a Preserve to be just that, a Preserve. Not a State Park. The requisite public toilets, trail maintenance, riparian repair, and a maintenance/office structure may be necessary; overnight accommodations and accompanying extensive infrastructure are not and would cause irreparable harm to our communities.

To conclude, for the sake of our community and its residents, the Elk Township Board of Supervisors strongly advocates for the return of a Preserve designation. We ask that DCNR reconsider its intentions for this valuable resource and publicly announce a plan to retain it as a Preserve.

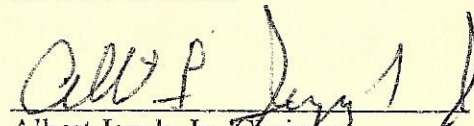
With concern,

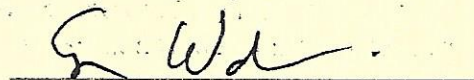
Elk Township Board of Supervisors


Attest

  
Secretary

ELK TOWNSHIP

  
Albert Jezyk, Jr., Chairman

  
Estace Walters, Vice-Chairman

  
Milton Rudy, Member