

GEORGE STRAWBRIDGE, JR.

January 25, 2024

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RE: Big Elk Creek Lands

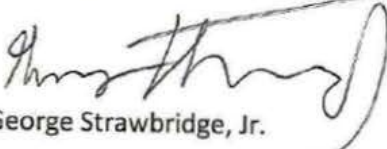
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out regarding the astonishing plans that the state has proposed for the Big Elk Creek area. You are correct that I find their plans a complete abandonment of the reason I maintained these lands in my possession for over 30 years. In fact, while I was approached to sell this property many times over the years, I waited until I was able to broker a deal with The Conservation Fund whose purpose in securing the land was in line with my own ideals--to preserve open space. We structured a purchase in phases that allowed them to raise the funds in stages. I was not in a hurry to sell; but in fact, wanted to sell to a like-minded buyer even if that slowed down the process.

While I now winter in Florida, you can imagine the many emails I have received regarding this subject since the state revealed its plans to create a recreational destination site with overnight camping facilities. I applaud the efforts of the area residents to make their wishes known by attending the meetings and writing letters to elected officials.

It is my hope that these efforts will successfully change the course of the state and allow these lands to remain preserved in their most natural state possible which is in line with other lands in the immediate area in both Maryland and Delaware.

Sincerely,


George Strawbridge, Jr.

GS, JR:dss

[REDACTED]