

London Britain Township

Chester County, Pennsylvania

Established 1725

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To: Cynthia Dunn, PA Secretary of Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

The London Britain Township Board of Supervisors is going on record to express our opposition to the Big Elk Creek State Park campground, cottages, yurts, shower house, pavilions and amphitheater recently presented to the community and local municipalities. The Board of Supervisors are however in support of bathrooms and a small maintenance/office building like the current facilities of the White Clay Creek Preserve.

In recent LBT meetings, The Board and several township residents have expressed serious concerns regarding increased traffic, crime, road usage, litter and increased strain on local fire, police and emergency services which will be caused by the proposed infrastructure "improvements" at the Big Elk Creek State Park. Local communities, such as ours, have struggled finding adequate funding for road improvements in recent years. With increased out-of-state traffic, more cars on the roads and larger recreational vehicle usage, local townships may have to consider increasing budgets and raising taxes to cover additional road improvements and repairs. High inflation over the last few years has made it difficult for many people to afford their current taxes and basic expenses.

The West Grove Fire Department, Avondale Fire Department, Pennsylvania State Police and local Medic 94 have all expressed to the township increased costs, increased calls and lack of new job applicants. The loss of Jennersville Hospital has further exacerbated the situation for emergency responders in our area due to longer transport times and increased costs. More people visiting the area, additional recreational activities and more drivers on the road will only further strain these services and number of calls. London Britain Township budgets these services as a separate line item known as the Emergency Services Fund. If our emergency responders see the need to request an increase in their funding requests, the Township will need to seriously consider raising taxes for this fund to cover these additional fees.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is tasked with maintaining Pennsylvania's 124 state parks and 20 state forests. At a recent meeting, DCNR stated the enormous backlog in much needed updates, repairs and improvements to the state's existing park facilities. It does not seem prudent to take on additional costs for the Big Elk Creek State Park when these funds could be allocated to areas of higher need.

In summary, the London Britain Township Board of Supervisors does NOT support the proposed infrastructure "improvements" at the Big Elk Creek State Park as noted above. The additional burden is too much for our residents who already enjoy the quiet trails, babbling creek and singing of songbirds at no additional costs to our community and to our already stretched thin emergency responders. The Board feels that the Big Elk Creek State Park should remain a passive recreational facility similar to the White Clay Creek Preserve, as was originally proposed and intended during the initial purchase from the Strawbridge family.

With concern,

London Britain Township Board of Supervisors

Brian Sachs, Chairman

Aileen Parrish, Vice Chairman

Bruce Yost, Member

cc : Robert Campion, Asst. Park Mgr. PA DCNR
Elk Township Board of Supervisors
Franklin Township Board of Supervisors