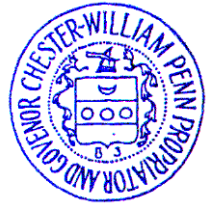




THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS
Josh Maxwell
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Eric M. Roe

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December 10, 2024

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

Honorable Cindy Dunn, Secretary
Pennsylvania DCNR
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RE: Big Elk Creek State Park

Dear Governor Shapiro and Secretary Dunn:

We urge the Governor’s Office and the PA Department of Conservation and National Resources (DCNR) to convert Big Elk Creek State Park into a Preserve. A Preserve will protect the land’s natural beauty for current and future generations of our residents.

In 2016, the Conservation Fund purchased 978 acres of land that would become the Big Elk Creek section of the White Clay Creek Preserve. Six years later, then-Governor Tom Wolf announced that this property, plus several hundred additional acres, would become the Big Elk Creek State Park. We understood that the land would remain a low-intensity recreational day use activity. Yet, in late 2023, DCNR shared preliminary design ideas for the new state park, including a campground. We are concerned that a plan could reinstate camping, which our Board and community do not want.

We thank DCNR for allowing Chester County to designate two members to participate on the Big Elk Creek Master Planning Task Force. It is important to our Board that DCNR listens to the wishes of those who originally transferred this property, with the promise it would be preserved, as well as the residents of Chester County, who love this beautiful land.

This nearly 2,000-acre undeveloped area is unique in the high-density southeastern corner of the Commonwealth. White Clay Creek Preserve can, and should, serve as a model for retaining land as open space. Reverting Big Elk Creek State Park into a Preserve will benefit the citizens of Chester County and the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Josh Maxwell
Chair

Marian D. Moskowitz
Vice-Chair

Eric M. Roe
Commissioner

cc: Gary Schroeder and Henrietta Bellman, Chester County Public Designees, Big Elk Creek Master Planning Advisory Task Force