



BOROUGH OF OXFORD

December 16, 2024

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

Honorable Cindy Dunn
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RE: Big Elk Creek State Park, Chester County

Dear Governor Shapiro and Secretary Dunn:

On behalf of the Oxford Borough Council, I submit this letter in support of converting the Big Elk Creek State Park into a preserve and to forgo considerations of reinstating camping and high-intensity recreational uses of the land.

The Conservation Fund purchased the land that would become the Big Elk Creek section of the White Clay Creek Preserve in 2016. A few years later Governor Tom Wolf combined the original 978 acres with additional land to become the Big Elk Creek State Park. Many in the area anticipated that the park would remain limited to low-impact recreational uses and that the land's natural features would be preserved. However, more recent preliminary designs released by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) indicate that campgrounds are being considered, raising concerns for residents of the area about negative impacts to the park's natural resources and characteristics, and to quality of life for area residents.

The Borough, working alongside the member municipalities of the Oxford Regional Planning Committee, is working to prepare for growth in our corner of the Commonwealth. While we welcome the opportunities strategic growth can have on downtown revitalization and quality of life in the Borough, we are also working to prepare for its challenges and potential negative impacts. We already have concerns about increased traffic congestion and the degradation of natural resources, and we fear a campground in this area will exacerbate these problems.

As the Big Elk Creek Master Planning Task Force continues their work, we ask that you and they listen to the concerns of residents in our part of the county. Thank you for your consideration and for all you do to support communities across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Cloyd
Borough Council President

cc: Big Elk Creek Master Planning Advisory Task Force
Oxford Regional Planning Committee