

December 10, 2024

To: The Honorable Joshua Shapiro, Governor Cynthia Dunn, Secretary of the Dept. Of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

7th Floor RCSOB, 400 Market Street PO Box 8767 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8767

RE: Big Elk Creek State Park

The East Nottingham Township Board of Supervisors joins the Townships of London Britain, Elk, and Franklin to express our opposition to DCNR's plan to locate campgrounds, RV facilities, and any buildings and facilities associated with overnight stays. We strongly urge DCNR to limit development of this area to that which is similar to White Clay Creek Preserve: public restrooms, maintenance and office structures.

Even though East Nottingham Township does not touch Big Elk Creek State Park, the Township does border those townships that do. Increased traffic, litter, crime, road damage, and general demands on East Nottingham Township roads, as well as the increased burden on the fire and EMS services is certain to result from such development. We are already experiencing rising costs associated with fire and EMS services. These costs will only continue to increase as all townships bear the burden for these services associated with the development DCNR is pursuing.

As you are well aware, the public was told by DCNR that this property would only offer low impact recreation, such as fishing and hiking. That is why it was originally part of the White Clay Creek Preserve. Although DCNR has taken deliberate steps to divorce these two properties, the East Nottingham Township Board of Supervisors strongly urges DCNR heed the desires of London Britain, Elk, and Franklin Townships; redesignate the Strawbridge property as a Preserve, limit development to those structures that are compatible to a Preserve, and develop a master plan that reflects that commitment.

With concern,

EAST NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP

Sam Goodley, Jr., Chairman

John Wallace, Vice-Chairman

David Smoker, Supervisor

Thomas Faux, Supervisor

158 Election Road Oxford PA, 19363 www.eastnottingham.org Ph: 610-932-8494 Fax: 610-932-9441