



April 1, 2024

The Honorable Jordan Harris
Majority Chairman Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
512 E Main Capitol Building

The Honorable Seth Grove
Minority Chairman Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
245 Main Capitol Building

Dear Chairman Harris and Chairman Grove:

The following information is being provided in response to questions raised at the recent hearing before the House Appropriations Committee regarding the budget of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. We have listed each question with our response immediately following each question.

Rep Lawrence

Rep. Lawrence asked how disputes between DCNR and local zoning authorities are resolved (in reference to Big Elk Creek SP). DCNR stated that they were not aware of any issues and Rep. Lawrence asked for follow up in writing.

DCNR Response: The DCNR is not aware of any current issues with local zoning authorities. The DCNR openly and proactively shares information and updates on upcoming projects with our municipal neighbors and regularly considers local requirements and needs, such as setbacks, and conforms to or exceeds them whenever possible.

That having been said, DCNR lands in general, and State Park lands in particular, are not subject to local zoning ordinances and land use regulations. In addition, under the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, 35 P.S. § 7210.105, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry has sole jurisdiction for building and occupancy of all state-owned buildings and structures, no matter where they are located. Therefore, municipalities have no inspection authority over buildings to be constructed on DCNR lands.