

JOHN A. LAWRENCE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
13TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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John Hallas
Director of Pennsylvania State Parks
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

July 10, 2024

Dear John –

Thank you for testifying before the Policy Committee yesterday at the hearing in West Grove. Thank you also for staying through the entire hearing to listen to the other testifiers.

You heard the testimony of leaders from across the community. Eight months after DCNR's presentation at Lincoln University, and six months after the town hall meeting in Kemblesville, interest in this issue has not faded. If anything, it is stronger and more resolute.

The testifiers each brought unique perspectives from a variety of backgrounds and viewpoints, but all were united in the view that Big Elk must be preserved. This is not a partisan issue, it is not a local issue, it is simply a matter of doing the right thing for the land and living up to the commitments made by DCNR for over a decade.

As I noted in my letters to you dated November 7, 2023, January 16, 2024, and April 1, 2024, a great deal of controversy, angst, and turmoil can be avoided if DCNR simply announces that they have heard the will of the community and will revert to maintaining the Strawbridge parcels as a Preserve. As I said yesterday, I beg you and Secretary Dunn to reconsider DCNR's current position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Lawrence', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Lawrence
State Representative
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania